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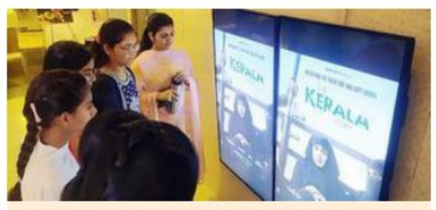

DISCLAIMER MUST

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ROYAL SHOW

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Meghwal replaces Kiren Rijiju as Law Minister

Nistula Hebbar
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

In a surprise move, the Modi government on Thursday removed Kiren Rijiju as Law Minister and appointed Arjun Ram Meghwal as his replacement.

Mr. Meghwal, a Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, has been made MoS with independent charge of the Law and Justice Ministry. A Rashtrapati Bhavan communique announced the changes, including MoS for Law S.P. Singh Baghel being moved in the same rank to the Health Ministry.

The changes come at a time when there is a perception that the judiciary and the Centre are on a collision course.

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Congress ends uncertainty, picks Siddaramaiah as Chief Minister

Shivakumar to be Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka; swearing-in ceremony to be held tomorrow at Kanteerava Stadium; party leadership now turns to shortlisting 32 Ministers from the 50-odd aspirants

Sandeep Phukan
Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

Ending uncertainty and speculation, the Congress on Thursday announced that 75-year-old Siddaramaiah, an eight-term MLA, will be the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar, who was insistent on securing the top job, will be the Deputy Chief Minister.

The announcement came after a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) of the MLAs-elect in Bengaluru, attended by the party's central observers. This is the second CLP meeting in a week.

At the meeting, Mr. Shivakumar moved a resolution to elect Mr. Siddaramaiah as the CLP leader and all the newly elected MLAs endorsed it unanimously. The Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister, and a group of Ministers will be sworn in on Saturday at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. Leaders of like-minded parties – including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, Left leaders Sitaram Yechury and D. Raja, and Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar – are expected to attend.

Randeep Singh Surjewala greets Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A Congress delegation called on Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at Raj Bhavan to stake its claim to form the government.

As both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar insisted on the top job, government formation was deadlocked and it reportedly took the intervention of former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to resolve it.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi along with the Congress general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, general secretary for organisation K.C. Venugopal said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge decided the names after consulting senior leaders, including Ms. Gandhi.

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Sweet victory: People celebrating the Supreme Court verdict on jallikattu at Tamukkam in Madurai on Thursday. R. ASHOK

T.N.'s amended law on jallikattu valid: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday termed jallikattu a "type of bovine sport" existing in Tamil Nadu for at least a century, and did not interfere with the State legislature's finding that the bull-taming event is part of the cultural heritage and tradition of the people.

A Constitution Bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph upheld the validity of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act of 2017 and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules of 2017. "The Amendment Act has received the Presidential assent. We do not think there is any flaw in the State action," the judgment held.

The court also found similar laws passed by Karnataka and Maharashtra, allowing bullock cart races and buffalo racing 'kambala', valid.

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METROPLUS » PAGE 7

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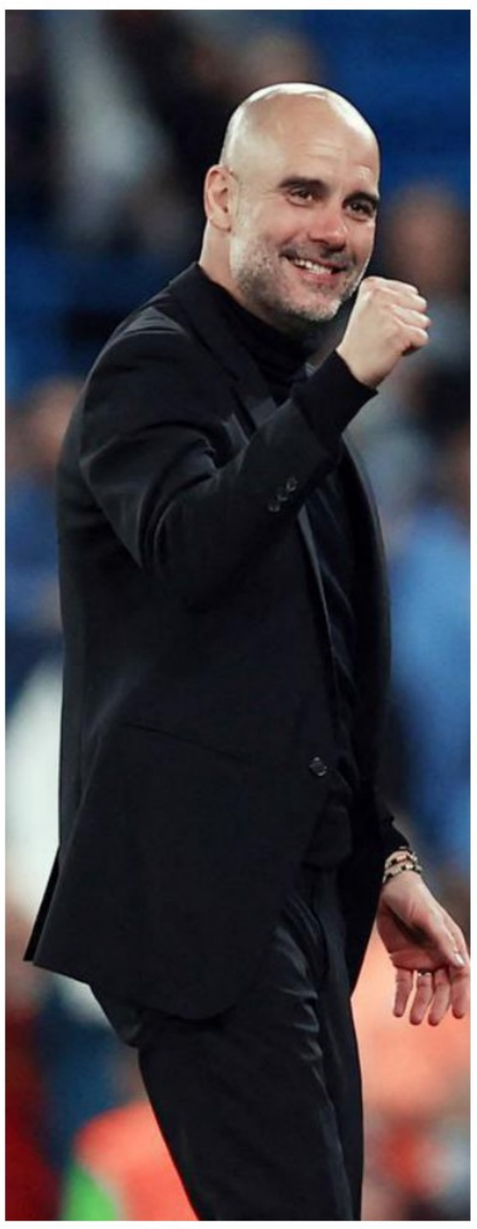
Walking the Pep talk: how did Manchester City turn the tables on serial winner Real Madrid?

A combination of the Spaniard's famed high-press along with a six-man mid-block married to a three-member defence effectively negated whatever threat the title holder posed

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Neeladri Bhattacharjee



Coaching masterclass: Pep Guardiola out-thought rival Carlo Ancelotti in all departments of the game and he had a stellar starcast ready to carry out his plans. While Ruben Dias and John Stones kept the Real attack at bay, midfielders Rodri and Bernardo Silva's surging runs caused the rival defence headaches all with goalkeeper Ederson starting the moves from the back. And there was time enough for substitute Alvarez to score late in the game too. REUTERS, AFP, GETTY IMAGES, AP

Real Madrid has made an incoming Champions League trophy a regular part of its cabinet over the last few years. It won five in the past 10 years, including the last one.

Even without Cristiano Ronaldo – its highest ever goal scorer – and Zinedine Zidane, the manager who won a hat-trick of UCL titles, it seemed to always find a way to win in the tournament.

Sergio Aguero was hardly joking when he said, "I think they train all season, they only think about the Champions League."

But all of it changed on Wednesday night.

Manchester City, playing at home, destroyed the 14-time Champions League winner's title defence with a 4-0 rout. Erling Haaland, its highest goal scorer this season, did not even need to find the net.

The Red Wedding happened in Manchester. But in blue.

For Pep Guardiola and his boys, the win meant something beyond a place in the final. Guardiola, a man who loves control, proved on the biggest European stage possible that complete control can demolish heavyweights.

The Spaniard had fumed after a trivial error by Ederson when City was leading Arsenal in the Premier League this season. Control, for Guardiola, has been everything in football.

Breakdown of tactics

Guardiola thrives on possession-based football and quick build-up using small passes. With Ederson being the start of his attacking strategies playing from the back, the Brazilian's passing becomes crucial.

Perhaps, that was something that put Guardiola off in the Arsenal game.

In defence, the Spaniard demands a very high-intensity and high-pressure game. Each time a City player loses the ball, at least two players surround the opponent to force an error and try and regain possession.

That is the basis of the modern *gegenpress* – a style of football that allows a side to pressurise its opponent, with an aim to keep possession of the ball for attacks.

You can stop a horse, but not a battalion

It was general knowledge that City's No. 9 Haaland, who already has 52 goals this season, would be heavily marked.

Though it limited City's options in the box, Guardiola started a six-member mid-block, comprising John Stones, Rodri, Jack Grealish, Ilkay Gundogan, Bernardo Silva and Kevin De Bruyne.

You can stop a horse, but not a battalion. City, did precisely that. In the sixth minute, Rodri threatened with a solo run into the box, followed by a shot.

Though it was off-target, what it did for Man City was rattle Real – which started with a 4+1 defence – and force it to stretch its ranks.

Seventeen minutes later, City used this vulnerability. De Bruyne started an attack from a position similar to that of Rodri. De Bruyne had scored a long-ranger in the first leg, which gave all the more reason for Madrid to try and deny him a shot from distance.

As Real tried to close him down, he released Bernardo Silva – who had made a run behind the defence to shoot and score.

A decoy

Haaland, the striker, became a decoy instead. And Real, marking him during set-pieces, had to suffer consequently. When Militao tried to mark Haaland in the air, the Norwegian stopped his movement and the ball was headed in by Akanji after a touch off the Brazilian.

Heavy low-block defence

Man City has conceded just 31 goals in the Premier League – the joint-lowest with Newcastle United. Against Madrid, it showed specifically why it is has managed to do so.

Instead of starting a four-man defence, City started with a three-man low block – comprising Kyle Walker, Ruben Dias and Manuel Akanji – and a two-man lower mid-block of Stones and Rodri.

Bernardo and Grealish were to check for overlapping runs while Dias marked Rodrygo in the penalty box. Additionally, heavy press in the final third kept the Real attack at bay.

The best example of this system happened in the 34th minute when Toni Kroos was forced to shoot from distance instead of crossing into the box. At that moment there were seven blue shirts in the box.

Late in the second half, the low-block system worked again when Dani Ceballos' shot was saved by Ederson.

The Spaniard – seeing a number of blue shirts guard the net – looked for the top corner instead of the bottom, which was then saved with a lunging jump by the Man City No. 1.

Lessons from the loss

Real Madrid, which won the Copa del Rey earlier, has stuck to its 4-3-3 shape throughout the season, and for most of Carlo Ancelotti's second tenure since 2021.

But against City, that system was heavily exposed – primarily because of City's remarkably quick movements.

Luka Modric and Aurelien Tchouameni were caught napping when City scored the second and fourth goals respectively and that will force *Los Blancos* to return to their drawing board.

Modric is 37, with his contract ending in June 2023, and Tchouameni has fallen down the pecking order of late.

After the disaster in Manchester, Real Madrid will have to look for options in the midfield.

For City, the only lesson it would draw from here is not to repeat the blunders of the 2021 UCL final, when it lost to Chelsea 1-0.

Guardiola has not won the Champions League since leaving Barcelona. That is something he will look to change in Istanbul.

We are still there and don't count us out, says ace sprinter Srabani

Stan Rayan
RANCHI

Two years ago, the Indian women's 4x100m relay team was very confident of making it to the Tokyo Olympics. That did not happen and the last year has seen one setback after another, especially on the doping front.

Olympian S. Dhanalakshmi, and later M.V. Jilna, who were set to go to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham last year as part of the sprint relay team, failed dope tests and in December, National 100m record-holder Dutee Chand – a former World University Games champion and Asian Games silver medallist – also fell into the doping net.

And, according to National coach Radhakrishnan Nair, top sprinter Hima Das suffered an injury just before the April 15 Indian Grand Prix in Bengaluru forcing her to miss the Federation Cup.

The Asian Championships (Thailand, July), World Championships (Hungary, August) and the Asian Games (China, September) are lined up this year but now it looks like the sprint relay team has virtually collapsed.

"I can't say it's no longer there. You still have Jyothi Yarraji, Archana (Suseendran) and myself. We need just need one more, one more girl from here. So, for the Asians, we are still there," said Srabani Nanda, the country's fastest woman this year after winning the 100m gold at the Federation Cup in a season-best 11.57s on Tuesday, in a chat with *The Hindu* here.

Srabani, fifth in India's all-time 100m list with her 11.36s which came in Florida in June 2021, has been training in Jamaica under Stephen Francis who had coached Olympic and World champions Elaine Thompson-Herah and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce earlier.

Bring them together

So, she is not a National camper and the Athletics Federation of India has a policy that it will not include non-campers in its relay teams for major championships.

"I don't know who is in the camp and who is not. If athletes are out of camp, you have to bring them together and make a team. If the federation brings us together, it will work," said the Olympian, a former Asian 200m bronze medallist, who was in the sprint relay team that finished fifth in the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Priority for the year: Srabani, who won the 100m gold at the Federation Cup with a season-best 11.57s in her first meet in India this year, wants to concentrate on that event this season. FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

"India is one of the best in Asia, so we cannot feel like we are not there. Athletes are still training, putting their work so you cannot put that mindset into them right now. Because, this is the start of the season."

What's running in her mind about the athletes who have fallen into the dope net?

"As an individual athlete in an individual sport, I don't think about other athletes. I can't control people, I would just say disappointing and hopefully it should not happen," said Srabani, who ran in five Jamaican meets this year before opening her Indian season in Ranchi.

Bring a change

"I don't really like this, what young people are into. Hopefully, I can change it doing everything clean.

"And more than that, they should know the impact. By doping, you spoil your body, your life and your achievements."

While the 200m took the 32-year-old from Odisha to the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, she appears to be focusing more on the 100m this year. And she's got a big goal in the shorter sprint.

"I go on and off. I haven't done much 200 this season because that's the plan of training. I did a lot of 100m but I went to the Olympics in the 200 so I feel it's my pet event but that's not always the case. When I am fit, I go for both.

"I always want to run fast, do a sub-11 (National record, Dutee Chand's 11.17s). That was always my goal since I went to Jamaica. So hopefully, with God's grace it will come."

Her four years in Kingston offered her plenty of lessons.

"It's a big experience for us Indian athletes to be with those people (Jamaicans), they are the world's best.

"I was like a queen in a pond (back home), then I met the sharks in the ocean," said Srabani who is supported in a big way by the Odisha Government.

But initially, progress was very slow.

"For the first few years, I didn't improve much because it was completely different. Now, I'm feeling better technically."

Tough life

The sudden advancing of major National championships like the Federation Cup and the Inter-State meet, which are selection meets for the Asian and World Championships and the Asian Games, has upset athletes' plans in a big way. The problem is bigger for athletes like Srabani who are training abroad.

"The first thing is the sudden jump in the cost of air tickets and then we have to change plans and rush into the season. I don't know how everybody is managing," she said.

Two airports in State bag 'Green Airports Recognition 2023' award

KIA and the Mangaluru International Airport are among the 12 airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East to get the award. This time, the theme is single-use plastic elimination

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two airports in Karnataka have bagged the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific's Green Airports Recognition 2023, for demonstrating outstanding accomplishments in their sustainability projects.

The Kempegowda International Airport and the Mangaluru International Airport are among the twelve airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East to get the Green Airports Recognition 2023.

The outstanding airports are awarded in three categories: platinum, gold, and silver recognition, according to various airport size categories and set criteria. KIA and Mangaluru International Airport bagged the platinum category award. FILE PHOTO

To promote best practices

The Green Airports Recognition aims to promote environmental best practices to minimise aviation's impact on the environment and recognise airport members who have outstanding accomplishments in their environmental projects.

ACI said that during the past decades, our industry has grown exponentially and is expected to continue to do so in the years to come.

"As air transport continues to grow, a substantial volume of waste is expected to be generated at airports. One such concern is the increasing worldwide concern about the impact of single-use plastic pollution, especially within the aviation industry," ACI said. The theme for the Green Airports Recognition 2023 is Single Use Plastic Elimination.

The outstanding airports are awarded in three categories: platinum, gold and silver recognition, according to various airport size categories and set criteria.

Both KIA and the Mangaluru International Airport bagged the platinum category award.

The airports are bracketed in the four categories: over 35 million passengers per annum, between 15-35 million passengers per annum, between 8-15 million passengers per annum and less than 8 million passengers per annum.

KIA bagged the platinum award for airports handling between 15-35 million passengers per annum for the project- plastics circularity at KIA.

The Mangaluru International Airport was awarded in the less than 8 million passengers per annum airports for the project-single use plastic free free airport.

IGBC certification

KIA's Terminal 2 has received the prestigious IGBC Platinum certification by the Indian Green Building Council under the IGBC Green New Building rating system.

"This is a significant milestone for us and a testament to BIAL's unwavering commitment to sustainability. T2 exemplifies our dedication to implementing green concepts and techniques, showcasing our efforts to conserve natural resources, energy, and water," said Hari Marar, MD and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Ltd.

Two of three tier-2 airports in State move up in Customer Satisfaction Index ranking

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Two of the three tier-2 airports in the State, which were part of the Airports Authority of India's (AAI) Customer Satisfaction Index of Airports for Round -II 2022, have fared better compared to the Round-I 2022.

While Round-I of the Customer Satisfaction Index of Airports was conducted for the period January to June, Round-II was conducted for the period July to December.

As per the Customer Satisfaction Index of Airports for Round-II 2022 vis-a-vis Round-I 2022, 56 airports across the country were part of the survey, of which three of them, Belagavi, Hubballi, and Mysuru, are from Karnataka.

As per the ranking, Hubballi airport was 15, followed by Belagavi at 16, and Mysuru at 22.

In Round-I of the survey, Hubballi and Belagavi airports were ranked 19 and 21, respectively, while Mysuru airport was ranked 15.

In the Customer Satisfaction Index Round-I 2022, Hubballi airport scored 4.68 points, while in Round-II 2022 it scored 4.79 points with an improvement of 0.11 points. Likewise, Belagavi in Round-I scored 4.64 points, while in Round-II it scored 4.78 with an improvement of 0.14 points. However, Mysuru in Round-I 2022 scored 4.76 points and in Round-II, it scored 4.67 points, with a slide of -0.09 points.

The Customer Satisfaction Survey takes into account 33 parameters which include : ground transportation to/from airport, parking facilities, availability of baggage carts trolleys, waiting time in check-in queue/ line, efficiency of check-in staff, courtesy and helpfulness of check-in staff, thoroughness of security inspection, value for money of restaurant/eating facilities, comfort of waiting/gate areas, internet access/Wi-Fi among others.

In addition, five questions related to hygiene (added because of the pandemic) are also part of the survey. The Hubballi airport during Round-II saw a decrease in the customer satisfaction rating with regard to parameters like thoroughness of security inspection, waiting time at security inspection, feeling of being safe and secure, among others.

With regard to Belagavi airport, there was an overall improvement in all parameters in the Customer Satisfaction Index for Round -II 2022 vis-a-vis Round-I 2022. However, it scored negative points as far as the five questions related to hygiene were concerned.

With regard to five questions related to hygiene, Mysore Airport scored negative points relating to only one question.

RTI activist Wg. Cdr. G.B. Atri passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Right to Information (RTI) activist Wg. Cdr. G.B. Atri (retd), 69, passed away in the city on Thursday. He was suffering from cancer for the past five years.

After retirement, Wg. Cdr. Atri took to RTI activism. While he exposed several scams and irregularities by leading politicians across the political divide, he had a passion for fighting for civic issues and environmental causes.

Bescom transformers

His public interest litigation seeking to remove all Bescom transformers from the footpaths, which led to a lot of corrective measures in the city, is still pending before the Karnataka High Court.

He was passionate about conserving lakes and fought several companies over the pollution and rejuvenation of Hebbagodi lake.

He was the elder brother of singer G.V. Atri, who passed away tragically in a drowning accident in 2000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that, my Client **M/s. Vriddhi Buildcon LLP** have entered into a **Sale Agreement dt. 17/05/2023** with the Owner namely **Sri. Anantha Muralidhara** with regard to the Property bearing **No: 3990A** in 18th Cross, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru- 560 070, **measuring East to West: (11.90+10.40)/2 mtrs., North to South:18.30 mtrs., totally measuring 204.04 sqm.** & will be purchasing the same by way of Regd. Sale deed

If any person has any objections to the said sale, may Lodge the same with me on or before **03/06/2023**.

T.B. KIRAN KUMAR, ADVOCATE,
No.3/2, 3rd Cross, Yediyur, B'lore-70. **Mob. No. 98450-17236**
e-mail: tbkiran@gmail.com

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/T-64/23-24/706-10&714-17 Date:17.05.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Mode Only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tenders for the following works.

1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/PTK/ Enhancement of 2x10 MVA, 110/11Kv Power Transformer by 2x20 MVA 110/11Kv Power Transformer at 110/11Kv Sub-station, Mylara in Huvinahadagli Taluka, Vijayanagara District Dtd: 15.05.2023 for "Enhancement of 2x10 MVA, 110/11Kv Power Transformer by 2x20 MVA 110/11Kv Power Transformer at 110/11Kv Sub-station, **Mylara** in Huvinahadagli Taluq, Vijayanagara District" including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).

2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/PTK/ Enhancement of 1x10MVA by 1x20MVA PTR @110KV MUSS Vadavatti, Raichur Taluka & Raichur District Dt. 15.05.2023 for "Enhancement of 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with additional switchgears at 110/11kV **Vadavatti** Sub-station in Raichur Taluka and District-including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).

3) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/PTK/ Enhancement 1x8MVA by 1x12.5MVA PTR @ 66KV MUSS Kottur Dt. 15.05.2023 for "Enhancement of 1x8 MVA, 66/11 KV Power Transformer by 1x12.5MVA 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66KV MUSS **Kottur,** Kottur Taluka, Vijayanagara District pertaining to 220KV R/S Ittigi, KPTCL including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).

4. Bid Enquiry No. : KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/PTK/ Enhancement of 1x10 MVA by 1x20 MVA PTR @110KV MUSS Kavital Dt. 15.05.2023 in Manvi Taluk, Raichur District for " Enhancement of 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at 110/33/11kV **Kavital** Sub-station in Manvi Taluka and Raichur District." including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).

5. Bid Enquiry No. :KPTCL/SEE/Tr. (W&M) C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/PTK/ Additional 10MVA PTR @ 220/110/66/33/11 KV Munirabad Power House Dt. 15.05.2023 for Providing additional 1 x 20 MVA ,110/66 KV Power transformer at 220/110/66/33/11 KV **Munirabad Power House** Sub-Station in Koppal Taluk and District including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).

6) Bid Enquiry No.:KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/PTK/ Balance Work Enhancement 2x12.5MVA by 2x20MVA PTR @110 KV UP Halli S/S Dt:20.05.2023_CALL-4 for Enhancement of 2x12.5MVA, 66/11 KV Power Transformer by 2x20MVA and Providing 5 additional PCVCB switchgear at 66/11KV **MUSS UP Halli,** H.B.Halli Taluk, Vijayanagara District pertaining to TL&SS Division Munirabad, KPTCL Sub-station conforming to our Technical Specifications, F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance and transportation.

7) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/PTK/ Enhancement 10 by 20 MVA PTR @110 KV Yappaldinni S/S Dt. 28.08.2022_CALL-5. for "Enhancement of 1X10 MVA,110/11kV Power Transformer by 1X20 MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at 110/11kV **Yapaladinni** Sub-station in Raichur Taluk and District. Including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major material Power Transformer and 11 KV Switchgears will be supplied by KPTCL)".

8) Bid Enquiry No.:SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/ TTK/110 KV LILO line to Ganadal Dt. 20.05.2023_Call-7 for Construction of 1 No. of 110kV Terminal Bay at existing 110/11kV Sub-station **Ganadal** for the proposed 110kV LILO Line by utilizing 110kV DC towers from the tapping point of existing 110KV Kushtagi-Kanakagiri Line for a distance of 1.62Kms in YelburgaTaluk of Koppal District on Total TurnKey Basis.

Tenders will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"eProcurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 11:00Hrs on 20.05.2023**. Further details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad-583 233
Tele-Fax: 08539-270094

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Stores and Puchases Department, Central Offices, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
No.BMTC/CO/COSP/E1/001/2023-24 Dt:17.05.2023

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

BMTC invites Expression **to Run Creche (Day Care Centre) for Children of the Women Staff Working at the Central Office, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-27.** The details of the EoI will be available in the BMTC **website: www.mybmtc.com** The interested prospective bidders are requested to participate in the meeting to be held on **24.05.2023 at 11.30 Hrs.** at the following address: Address: **Mini Meeting Hall, 4th Floor, BMTC Central Office, Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027 Contact No.7760991165**

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Website: www.apsasc.edu.in
Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are **invited for Purchase of Office Furniture for Main office at first flr ADM Block.** Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website for reference) to be collected from school office after submission of DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College for ₹100/- from 19 May to 25 May 2023 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 26 May 2023 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that Original Sale Deed dated 26.08.2005 registered as document No.972/2005-06 of Book-I in the office of the Sub-Registrar Chikkaballapura, Sale Deed dated 23.12.2006 registered as document No.3488/2006-07 of Book I & CD.No.CKBD19 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Chikkaballapura in respect of Sy.No.9/1 and Sale Deed dated 28.07.1995 registered as document No.974/1995-96 of Book I & Volume No.1588 at Pages No.95 to 96 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Chikkaballapura in respect of Sy.No.7/1, Situated at **Balagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura** has been lost. All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the Sale Deeds If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **MR. ZAINUDDIN,** S/o. Late. V. K. Moidunni, residing at Flat No.201, SLV Engineers Enclave, Phase II, BSF STS Road, Sathnur Village, Bagalur Post, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk-562149, has lost the original Partition Deed dated 01/08/2015, registered in the office of Senior Sub Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore vide document bearing No.GAN-1-01660-2015-16, Book-1, stored in CD No.GAND238, with respect to Residential **Flat No.201** in **Second Floor,** measuring **1550 Square Feet** of Super Built-up Area, in the residential apartment building known as "SLV's ENGINEERS ENCLAVE PHASE-II", constructed on Site No.2, V. P. Katha No. 67/p12/2, Site No.3, V. P. Katha No. 67/p12/3, Site No.6, V. P. Katha No. 67/p12/6, Site No. 7, V. P. Katha No. 67/p12/7, Site No.8, V. P. Katha No. 67/p12/8, in the Layout known as "VAYUSENA", situated at **Sathnur Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Previously Bangalore North Taluk** and lodged the Police Compliant on 17/05/2023, vide Loss Report No.0565099/2023, if any one finds the said document they may kindly handover the same to undersigned.

M.J. Law Associates
Advocates,
No.2, First Floor, Chickkanna Complex, Kattigenahalli Bus Stop, Bagalur Main Road, Bangalore-560 064
Mb No. 9901900508

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM – POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in
Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are invited for **Installation of Windows at First Floor ADM Block of APS ASC C & C.** Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website for reference) to be collected from school office after submission of DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College for ₹100/- from 19 May to 25 May 2023 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 26 May 2023 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

Government of India (Min. Of Railways)
Research Designs and Standards Organisation
Manak Nagar, Lucknow - 226 011

Open E -Tender Notice No. **TG_ABL_COMP_AMC_2023**

Open E- Tender No. TG_ABL_COMP_AMC_2023 is invited by Joint Director/Testing/Lab, Testing Directorate, RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow on behalf of President of India for following Works:

Description of Work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	EMD Money (Rs.)
Work of Non-Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract of 5 nos. screw compressors make Atlas Copco, installed in ABL, Testing Directorate, RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow by OEM or Firm authorized by OEM for AMC work on open tender basis for three years.	**Rs. 7,96,500/-**	**Rs. 16,000/-**
	Cost of Tender Form: NIL	

- Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.
- The tenderer must have Class-III Digital Signature certificate & must have registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer can participate in e- tendering.
- Tender Closing Date & Time: **20.06.2023** up to **15:00** hrs.
- Tender Opening Date and Time: **20.06.2023** at **15:30** hrs.
- The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.
- Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website only.

Joint Director/Testing/Lab//RDSO/Lucknow

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. SHANKARALINGE GOWDA,** S/o. Chikkaboregowda, Aged about 61 years, Residing at No.32 33, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Sumukh Layout, Near Naidu Layout, Chikkalasandra, Subramanyapura, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru-560 061. AADHAR No. 3973 8130 7620. Anybody has got any sort of right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said transaction shall approach the under mentioned Advocate within **7 days** from this day with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece & parcel of immovable property bearing vacant **Site No.961,** formed out of Sy. No. 7 later reassigned as Re. Sy. 8/16, comprised within the layout known as Dwarakanagar, situated at **Channasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru,** presently within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No. 160, Rajarajeswarinagar Ward and measuring East to West (47 +32)/2 feet and North to South (31+30)/2 feet, in all measuring **1204.75 Sq. ft, And BOUNDED ON:**
EAST BY : Site No. 960
WEST BY : Site No.962
NORTH BY : Private Property
SOUTH BY : Road

N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
48/1, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Opp: Canara Bank, Vallabha Nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-560061. Ph No. 9343094442, 080-41628629

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that, our client, intends to purchase the immovable property more fully described in the schedule hereunder from its present owners **Mr. D. RAJANNA,** S/o Late Sri Doddagovindappa, residing at No. 221, 1st Ward, Santhe Beedi, Dommasandra, Anekal, Bangalore-562125 and others. Represented by their GPA Holders S**ri. A. RAMAPPA & Sri. A. LAKSHMAPPA,** sons of Late Anjappa, Both residing at No. 20A, Kithaganahalli, Chandapura Circle, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560 099.

Any persons, financial institutions having any sort of claim / rights / interest / charge on the below said property or any objections for the said sale of the property may file their objections in writing along with supporting documents, addressed to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be construed that there are no claims of any sort over the below said property and our client shall be advised to proceed with the proposed transaction. Any claims thereafter shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing **SY. No. 174/1 measuring 0-01-04 GUNTAS,** situated at **DOMMASANDRA VILLAGE, SARJAPUR HOBLI, ANEKAL TALUK** and bounded on : East by : Remaining portion of same survey number; West by : Remaining portion of same survey number; North by: Remaining portion of same survey number; South by : Remaining portion of same survey number;

Sd/-
V.LAKSHMIPATHI,
Advocate, **S L Law Associates,**
No.106/A1, 1st Floor, KRS Complex, Kodathi, Carmelaram Post, Bangalore-560035,
Mobile : +91 9886985713 /9535013743
email: sllawassociates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner: **M/s Tokai Rubber Auto Parts India Pvt. Ltd.,** having its registered office at No.337, Harohalli Industrial Area, 2nd Phase, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District.

Apart from the said Owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Western portion of the Industrial Plot No.337, bearing V.P.Khatha No.194/337, Property No.152900200801220226, admeasuring 20,235 Sq.Mtrs, situated at Hulugondanahalli Village, Harohalli Hobli, now known as 2nd Phase Harohalli Industrial Area, Kanakapura Taluk and bounded on:

East by : Remaining portion of Plot No.337
West by : Plot No.336
North by : Private land/property
South by : 18 Meter Wide Road No.14

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/WMC/TKR/666-68 Date: 17.05.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement portal only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works:

1) Bid Enquiry No. SEE/Tr(W&M)/TKR/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/Enq-33/Dtd: 23.02.2023/CALL-3. Augmentation of 1x10MVA, Power Transformer-1 by 1x20MVA Power Transformer at 110/11KV Substation, **Ammasandra** in K.B. Cross Division, Tumakuru Circle on Partial Turnkey basis.

2) Bid Enquiry No. SEE/Tr(W&M)/TKR/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/Enq-34/Dtd: 23.02.2023/CALL-3. Providing 1 Number of Intermediate Tower (DB+0) between location No. 72 to 73 of existing **66KV Pavagada Shylapura SC line** for avoiding the Hazardous situation due to insufficient ground clearance at Shylapura limits, Pavagada on Total Turnkey basis.

3) Bid Enquiry No. SEE/Tr(W&M)/TKR/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/Enq-35/Dtd: 23.02.2023/CALL-3. Combined package for the work of Providing additional 11KV switchgears at 110/11KV **Handanakere,** 66/11KV **Santhemavathur,** 66/11KV **Kempanahalli,** 66/11KV **Thimmasandra** and 66/11KV **Dasudi** sub-stations in K.B Cross Division on Partial Turnkey basis.

The detailed information regarding enquiries in E-procurement portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://eproc.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink e-procurement or **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **20.05.2023.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer, Ele., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Siddaganga Complex, B.H. Road, Tumakuru-2. Ph: 0816-2955095.**

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION MALEGAON
ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE NO 12 FOR 2023-2024 (1st Call)

Online E Tenders in B-1 form for the following work invited by Executive Engineer P.W. Division Malegaon Ravalgaon road Malegaon Camp Tal Malegaon Dist Nashik Phone No 02554-251912 for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State from Capable and eligible P.W.Deptt. Registered / Unregistered Contractor or International Contactor whose Sub Company or Branch Located in India, and also completes terms and conditions mentioned in tender document can participate in the tender process. Tender Notice and Tender Documents are also available on our website https://mahatenders.gov.in. Right of Rejection of E-Tender / Cancellation of E-Tenders reserved by the Executive Engineer, P. W. Division, Malegaon. Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

E-Tender Notice including Total 01 (One) work below 500.00 Lakh. Details of mentioned E Tender Notice available on below websites
1) www.mahapwd.com 2)https://mahatenders.gov.in

Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time	19/05/2023 From 11:05 Hrs	To	02/06/2023 Upto 17:00 Hrs

Note
1 E-Tender Fee [non refundable] and Earnest Money will be accepted online only. All eligible/ intrested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal
2 https://mahatenders.gov.in before down loading tender documents and participate in e-tendering
3 Post Qualification Crieteria is applicable for all works.
Please Note this to all Registered Contractors

sd/-
(S. A. Shinde)
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division Malegoan

DGIPR/2023/2024/801

TB testing stuck in the previous century, and waiting for change

In *Nature*, the authors recommend using molecular tests with non sputum samples in a decentralised facility that can test for multiple conditions

Ramya Kannan

The frenetic pace of activity in some areas of science is only matched by lethargy in others. A classic case, as Madhukar Pai, renowned researcher on Tuberculosis and Associate Director, McGill International TB Centre, McGill University, Canada, put it in a tweet as a pithy foreword to his article in Nature: "Billions of molecular (PCR) tests were done for COVID-19 Why are we still using century-old microscopy for tuberculosis? We can and must do better!" Accompanied with a messy, unhygienic kitchen sink with racks of slides (presumably for sputum testing, requiring the patient to violently cough up phlegm from the lungs), there could not have been a more convincing argument to change the way testing is being done for Tuberculosis, pronto.

But why has time stood still for TB at what might conveniently be called ancient smear microscopy? "The simple answer," Dr. Pai says, "is that few people care about TB, and the investment in R&D has been so little over the past century. The fact that we are still using a century-old BCG vaccine today speaks volumes about the scale of neglect. Investment in COVID-19 vaccines was probably 1000-fold higher! So, it is deeply frustrating that many high burden countries, including India, are still so heavily reliant on microscopy, when nearly every country, including India, scaled up PCR (molecular) testing for COVID-19."

Dr. Pai co-authored with Soumya Swaminathan and Puneet K. Dewan an article arguing fiercely for 'Transforming tuberculosis diagnosis' in the May 1 issue of Nature Microbiology. In terms of sheer numbers, TB was the #1 infectious killer of humans until SARS-CoV2 emerged, Dr. Pai says, and as such would have demanded the bulk of the world's resources. But that did not happen since TB primarily affects poor people and impacts low and middle income countries. So, unlike infectious diseases like HIV or COVID-19 that also impacted high income countries, TB gets little attention or investment, Dr. Pai explains.

"Interestingly, even when investments were made and good products like CB-NAAT [tests] were developed, many high burden countries have limited their use only to certain special risk groups (people with HIV, people at high risk of drug-resistance, children), instead of replacing microscopy with molecular testing," Dr. Pai adds.

In the *Nature* article, the authors go on to describe diagnosis as the weakest aspect of TB care and control, but do not stop there. They further list out seven critical transitions (in a map that has been shared widely since) to close the massive TB diagnostic gap and enable TB programmes worldwide to recover from the pandemic setbacks.

> TB primarily impacts low and middle income countries. So, unlike infectious diseases, TB gets little investment.

In *Nature*, the authors recommend using molecular tests with non sputum samples in a decentralised testing facility that can test for multiple conditions, and testing that would focus on yield and population covered, cost lower but have high volumes and possibly manufactured in low and middle income countries. Even if seems like a test is 'less sensitive', it can nonetheless be very useful if it can reach a much larger population.

"COVID RATs and syphilis rapid tests are both good examples. Right now, we do not have a simple, RAT-like rapid test for TB, but efforts are being made to develop such rapid, simpler options.

I see the need for scaling up Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing right away, while we wait for a RAT for TB. When it becomes available, we will need to scale it up, since it can reach more people than regular tests," Dr. Pai says, speaking to *The Hindu*.

Not entirely a co-incidence, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has released for the first-time - its standard for Universal access to rapid tuberculosis diagnostics, setting benchmarks to: achieve universal access to WHO-recommended rapid diagnostics; increase bacteriologically-confirmed TB; detect drug resistance; and reduce the time to diagnosis. WHO-recommended rapid diagnostics are highly accurate, cost-effective, reduce the time to treatment initiation, and impact patient-important outcomes.

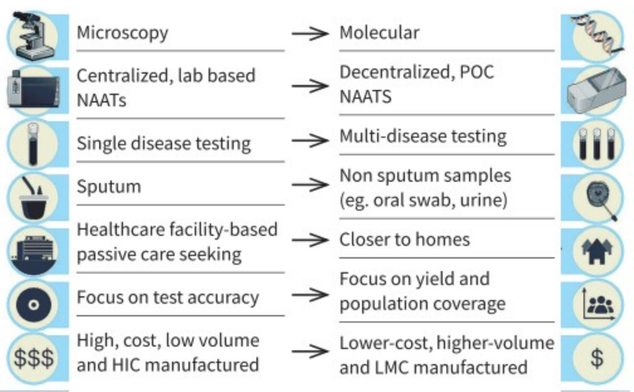
In another related editorial in a recent issue of the *Indian Journal of Medical Research*, Dr. Pai and Dr. Swaminathan discuss how India is still too reliant on smear microscopy, but is perfectly poised to lead innovations in the area.

"TB is a priority for the government and the budget has increased in the past few years. Also, India now has its own CB-NAAT, and India also worked hard on manufacturing PCR reagents and buying more molecular systems during this pandemic. So, there is no reason why India cannot replace microscopy with molecular testing in 2023...

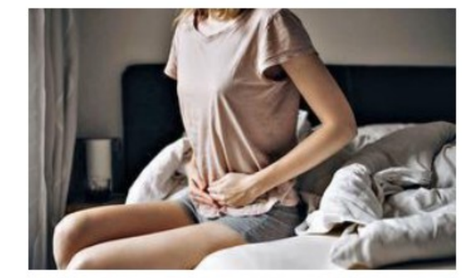
The intent is there, and execution and scale up are urgently needed," he says.

Seven steps to managing TB diagnosis

Seven critical transitions have been listed out to close the diagnostic gap and enable TB programmes to recover



Source: Nature Microbiology. The Seven interventions indicated in the article Transforming Tuberculosis Diagnosis



ISTOCKPHOTO

Period poverty leaves 500 million people in menstrual oblivion

Poongothai Aladi Aruna

Menstruation is a natural biological process experienced by 24%-26% of the global population aged 15-49. With an average menstrual span of 35 years, individuals require approximately 15,000-20,000 disposable sanitary pads or vaginal tampons during their lifetime. This means approximately 300 million women and transgender, non-binary individuals menstruate daily, amounting to a staggering 1.8 billion monthly. Unfortunately, period poverty affects nearly 500 million individuals, particularly those in low-middle-income and low-income groups, due to limited access to safe menstrual products.

Addressing period poverty

Various factors, including lack of access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and inadequate sexual health education, perpetuate period poverty. The consequences of period poverty extend beyond health and become a complex

Limited access to water and sanitation facilities hampers education, with nearly 25% of girls unable to attend school due to menstrual-related challenges

public health, social, and environmental issue. To ensure equitable development, period poverty must be addressed alongside other health indicators such as maternal, neonatal, and infant health.

Menstrual stigma

Menstruation is often shrouded in myths, taboos, and patriarchal norms, leading to a negative perception in many societies. However, menstrual health is intrinsically linked to six of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals: No poverty, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, all to be achieved by 2030. Recognising menstrual health as a significant population health indicator is essential to achieving these goals.

Impacts on education and health

Limited access to water and sanitation facilities hampers education, with nearly 25% of girls unable to attend school due to menstrual-related challenges. Additionally, approximately 50% of menstruating women in economically disadvantaged countries cannot afford safe menstrual products. Poor menstrual hygiene can lead to reproductive and urinary tract infections, resulting in infertility and complications during pregnancy. Educating communities about menstrual hygiene and providing free products by community health workers and nurses can alleviate these issues.

Environmental consequences

Disposable sanitary pads significantly contribute to environmental pollution, as each pad takes 500-800 years to degrade or must be incinerated, releasing toxic chemicals. With its limited land space and rising non-communicable diseases, advocating for reusable menstrual products has become imperative in India

Menstrual health as a rights issue

Gender inequality continues to persist as a challenge throughout the evolution of human civilisation. While progress has been made in areas such as voting rights, education, property ownership, work opportunities, and equal pay, menstruation remains an overlooked aspect in the fight for gender equality. It is crucial to recognise that menstrual health is not merely a health or environmental issue but a fundamental rights issue.

– Poongothai Aladi Aruna is a gynaecologist, MLA and a former Minister in the Tamil Nadu government

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

THIS VS THAT

Vegetarian or pescatarian diet?

Last month, the American Heart Association released a scientific statement listing the four best diets, which include the Dash (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension), the pescatarian, the Mediterranean, and vegetarian. While there are many similarities among all these — they all emphasise whole grains, fruits, egumes, nuts, and seeds — there are some subtle differences. Here, we look at the two most applicable to Indians — the pescatarian and vegetarian

The vegetarian diet

"Today, for almost all health goals, a vegetarian diet seems to be having a positive impact," believes Khushboo Jain Tibrewala, a Mumbai-based nutritionist. She say most plant-based foods are extremely nutrient dense, adding that "In addition to fibre, every vegetable gives minerals, vitamins, and micronutrients that together create a healthy body." One challenge with the vegetarian diet is protein (the target for most people is 0.8-1 gram of protein per kilogram of ideal body weight). "In order to meet the protein requirement, just try to get about 20-25 gram (i.e. 1 cup of dal, curd or Greek yoghurt or a palm-sized piece of tofu) at every meal and focus on diversity." Soak dals and beans for 12-18 hours before cooking.

The pescatarian diet

Imagine a vegetarian diet with the occasional serving of seafood. This is nutritionally the most wholesome, says Tibrewala. "It gives you the benefits of a vegetarian diet and the added benefit of good-fat seafood". Also, since Indian diets are most deficient in omega-3 fatty acids, fatty fish like mackerel or wild sardines are good options. She advises 200 grams twice or thrice a week to combat the danger of mercury as well as persistent organic pollutants (POPs, such as DDT), both toxic. Including foods that help the body reduce heavy metals helps: coriander leaves, celery juice, red-purple fruits and beetroot and jamun.

The verdict

If you like fish and are not restricted by cultural or religious practices, add a few servings. If you can't, plan your vegetarian meals to include protein. In either diet, limit intake of junk and ultra processed food.

Preeti Zachariah

BIG SHOT

Palestinian children participating in an activity aimed at improving mental health, following an Israeli airstrike at Deir Al-Balah in Gaza Strip. Mental health awareness week, with a focus on anxiety, is observed from May 15 to 22. For support, dial 24x7 helpline KIRAN 1800-599-0019, which is available in 13 languages. REUTERS

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

People with diabetes, hypertension to be put on standard care

75 In million. The Health Ministry will put hypertension and diabetes patients on 'standard care' by 2025 to mark World Hypertension Day. Dr. V.K. Paul, member of NITI Aayog, said this will be the largest expansion of non-communicable diseases in primary healthcare programmes in the world. PTI

India's exports to the EU to be impacted by deforestation regulation

1.3 In $ billion. Products such as coffee, leather hides and paperboard, annually exported to the EU will get impacted due to the European Union Deforestation-Free Products Regulation adopted this week, which prioritises protecting its agricultural sector and promoting exports. PTI

Significant growth in India's coal production in April 2023

8.5 In percentage. India's coal production rose to 73.14 million tonnes (MT) during April this year, compared to 67.20 million tonnes in April 2022, according to data from the Ministry of Coal. India achieved 94.89% of the 77.08 MT production target for April 2023, the data showed. PTI

Displacements caused by natural disasters in South Asia in 2022

2.5 In million. South Asia witnessed 12.5 million internal displacements due to disasters in 2022, with 90% of the movement being triggered by floods, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva. Pakistan and India were the most affected nations. PTI

Worth of weapons imported by Myanmar since 2021 coup

1 In $ billion. According to a UN report, Myanmar's military imported weapons from Russia, China and other countries since 2021, which was also used against civilians. Weapons continue to flow to the military despite evidence of its responsibility for war crimes. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Elections and the airwaves

Why are political parties provided free airtime on public broadcasters during elections? How does the scheme work and how does it benefit a political party? How does the Election Commission distribute time vouchers to parties without any bias?

EXPLAINER

Guru Prasad
Pawan Paramanandan

The story so far:
In the recently-concluded Karnataka Assembly elections, political parties were provided free airtime on public broadcasters, All India Radio (Akashvani) and Doordarshan during elections. The allotment was available to six recognised national parties – the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Indian National Congress (INC), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the National People's Party (NPP), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and one recognised State party, the Janata Dal (Secular). The parties were allocated a base time of 45 minutes and additional slots based on performance in previous polls. A total of 630 minutes of free airtime was issued under this allotment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a roadshow ahead of the Karnataka elections, in Bengaluru.

What is the rationale of the scheme?
The facility to provide free airtime for political parties during elections was given statutory basis through the 2003 amendment to the Representation of People Act, 1951. The Supreme Court, in its famed judgment (*The Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vs Cricket Association of Bengal and ANR*, 1995), held that airwaves are public property and its use should serve the greater public good. Elections being the lifeblood of a democracy, the misuse or abuse of airwaves to gain unfair electoral advantage is a key regulatory apprehension of governments around the world.

In the U.S., for example, the Federal Communications Commission, which regulates the electronic media in the country, devised the fairness doctrine to keep electioneering on the airwaves equitable. The now defunct fairness doctrine placed a positive obligation on broadcasters who carry political content of one candidate on its programme to extend the same to another candidate in the electoral fray.

In the U.K. too, political parties are allocated designated slots by Parliament, called the party political broadcasts (PPBs) to convey important political information to the people. The British Communication watchdog, Ofcom, is responsible for ensuring that PPBs are included in every licensed public service television channel and commercial radio services. Similar requirements are adopted in Singapore, Brazil and Japan.

What is the working of the scheme?
In the Karnataka elections, the BJP received 167 minutes of broadcast time on both DD and Akashvani, while the Congress got 174 minutes and the JD(S) got 107 minutes. Time vouchers are distributed by a lottery system by the Election Commission in a transparent process to obviate any preferential treatment in getting primetime slots.

The transcripts of political parties are vetted to ensure that they adhere to relevant codes. These codes proscribe any content which are *inter alia* critical of other countries, attack religions or other communities or incites violence and personal attacks. In case of any disagreements over the content of the script as vetted by the public broadcaster, it is referred to an Apex Committee comprising members from Akashvani and DD whose decision is final.

In the Indian media landscape, due to the pattern of ownership of media houses, the public generally identify a broadcaster as being affiliated with one political party or the other. In this regard, State-sponsored airtime provides more diversity and colour to the electoral process.

For example, the NPP, which was a rank outsider in the Karnataka elections, was afforded the same base time of 45 minutes as the INC and the BJP. Since the content being aired has to adhere to specific codes, it upholds the principle of fair play.

The guidelines by the Election Commission of India (ECI) also require that a maximum of two panel discussions are also aired by Akashvani and DD. These discussions provide an excellent platform for parties, both big and small, to debate and criticise each other's policies and manifestos, and in general promote an informed citizenry.

What are the operational challenges?
The fact that the scheme is available to national and recognised State parties may attract arguments that it is not truly equitable. In light of the recent retraction of the national party status for the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) and the Trinamool Congress (TMC), this observation becomes important. However, the ECI is constrained by the considerations of practicality and the fact that airwaves are not an infinite resource.

The Apex Committee comprises officials from Akashvani and DD and are expected to sit in review of their own decision in case of conflict with the political party on the content of the transcript. This leaves scope for conflicts of interest and therefore, a more representative committee may be constituted.

There are also calls for extending the provision to cover private broadcasters akin to the fairness doctrine of the U.S. A designated slot may be mandated for private channels to air content equitably and provide a platform for smaller parties and candidates. The political broadcast may be clearly differentiated from regular news broadcasts and programmes.

The 2024 General Elections will witness unprecedented levels of electioneering in the media. As spaces for sober, fair, considered and thoughtful debates shrink in a frenzy to grab attention, it is imperative that airwaves are used to nourish and enrich the Indian democracy and set standards for other electoral democracies.

The authors are Indian Information Service officers. Views expressed are personal and not those of the government.

THE GIST

- In the recently-concluded Karnataka Assembly elections, political parties were provided free airtime on public broadcasters, All India Radio (Akashvani) and Doordarshan during elections.
- Time vouchers are distributed by a lottery system by the Election Commission in a transparent process to obviate any preferential treatment in getting primetime slots.
- The transcripts of political parties are vetted to ensure that they adhere to relevant codes. These codes proscribe any content which are *inter alia* critical of other countries, attack religions or other communities or incites violence and personal attacks.

What are RBI regulations on green deposits?

What does the framework say? Can green deposits help the environment in any way?

Prashanth Perumal

The story so far:
Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) came up with a regulatory framework for banks to accept green deposits from customers. Under the new framework, banks that accept green deposits will have to disclose more information on how they invest these deposits.

What are green deposits?
Green deposits are not very different from the regular deposits that banks accept from their customers. The only major difference is that banks promise to earmark the money that they receive as green deposits towards environment-friendly projects. For example, a bank may promise that green deposits will be used towards financing renewable energy projects that fight climate change. A bank may also avoid using green deposits to invest in fossil fuel projects that are considered harmful to the climate. A green deposit is just one product in a wide array of other financial products such as green bonds, green shares, etc., that help investors put money into environmentally sustainable projects.

What does the RBI's regulatory framework say?
The RBI's framework for the acceptance of green deposits lays down certain conditions that banks must fulfill to accept green deposits from customers. Firstly, banks will have to come up with a set of rules or policies approved by their respective Boards that need to be followed while investing green deposits from customers.

These rules need to be made public on the banks' websites and banks will also have to disclose regular information about the amount of green deposits received, how these deposits were allocated towards various green projects, and the impact of such investments on the environment. A third-party will have to verify the claims made by banks regarding the projects in which the banks invest their green deposits as well as the sustainability credentials of these business projects.

The RBI has come up with a list of sectors that can be classified as sustainable and thus eligible to receive green deposits. These include renewable energy, waste management, clean transportation, energy efficiency, and afforestation.

Banks will be barred from investing green deposits in business projects involving fossil fuels, nuclear power, tobacco, gambling, palm oil, and hydropower generation.

The new rules are aimed at preventing greenwashing, which refers to making misleading claims about the positive environmental impact of an activity. For example, a bank may advertise that their green deposits will have a huge positive impact on the environment, while the actual impact may be minimal. A bank could also invest in projects that are not environment-friendly, perhaps because such projects offer higher returns, under the guise of green investing.

Will green deposits help depositors/investors and the environment?
Depositors who care about the environment may get some satisfaction from investing their money in environmentally sustainable investment products. However, there are challenges, for the range of projects in which green funds can be invested by the bank is limited by design.

When it comes to protecting the environment, green investing enthusiasts believe that putting money into green projects may be one of the best ways to help the environment. Critics, however, argue that green investment products are often just a way to make investors feel good about themselves and that these investments don't really do much good to the environment.

Noted finance expert Aswath Damodaran, for instance, calls green investing "a feel-good scam" that enriches only consultants.

Second, in a complex world where any action involves second-order effects that are difficult to see, it can be extremely hard to know if a project is really environmentally sustainable.

THE GIST

- Banks promise to earmark the money that they receive as green deposits towards environment-friendly projects.
- Banks will have to come up with a set of rules or policies approved by their respective Boards that need to be followed while investing green deposits from customers.
- The new rules are aimed at preventing greenwashing, which refers to making misleading claims about the positive environmental impact of an activity.

Namma Metro's Baiyyappanahalli-K.R. Pura section likely to be operational by July 15

Close to 27,000 passengers use K.R. Pura to Whitefield line. A major jump in patronage is expected after the entire 15.5-km stretch opens

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's much-awaited Baiyyappanahalli-K.R. Pura metro segment may open for commercial operations on July 15. Prior to the announcement of dates for Karnataka Assembly elections, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. had opened the metro line from K.R. Pura to Whitefield, covering a distance of 13.71 km, providing metro connectivity to the city's IT corridor for the first time. However, the missing link between K.R. Pura and Baiyyappanahalli only meant the metro line is fully not utilised.

The line has 12 stations. However, a stretch of close to 2 km could not be opened due to pending work. Due to the missing link, metro passengers are forced to use feeder service for a distance of 5 km to reach K.R. Puram after getting down at Baiyyappanahalli. Feeder services run by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) are being utilised by up to 8,000 passengers every day.

Track-laying is going on, and once the traction, signalling, and other related works are completed, a trial run will be done before approaching the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety for an inspection, says a BMRCL official. FILE PHOTO

Track-laying work on

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a BMRCL official said that the target has been set for July 15 to open the 2 km stretch. "The track laying is going on, and once the traction, signalling, and other related works are completed, a trial run will be carried out before approaching the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety for an inspection."

Close to 27,000 passengers are using the new K.R. Pura to Whitefield metro line. A major jump in patronage is expected only after the BMRCL opens the entire 15.5-km metro line. The K.R. Puram-Whitefield Namma Metro line was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 25. The line is part of the extended purple line from Baiyyappanahalli to Whitefield, built under phase II of the Namma Metro project.

The BMRCL has spent close to ₹4,500 crore to build the K.R. Puram to Whitefield line. According to the officials, the BMRCL has spent around ₹5,000 crore on building an extended metro line from Baiyyappanahalli to Whitefield under Phase II.

The 13-km line cost close to ₹4,500 crore for civil construction, land acquisition, traction, signaling and others. In the past, BMRCL missed several deadlines to open the line.

Commuters happy

Prasanna Kumar, a commuter, said, "The government should have completed the whole project and opened for the operations. However, BMRCL's promise to complete the pending work by July 15 and start the commercial operation will benefit the passengers since many have to take feeder service which is a waste of time."

Another commuter Lavanya Shekhar said, "This will changes the lives of lakhs of IT/BT employees forever, in this stretch. Now, using feeder service has become problematic. Because of the incomplete line many of my colleagues have started using their personal vehicles to commute to office. Hope they will start using the metro once the line is completely opened."

New foot overbridge

Meanwhile, the BMRCL is constructing a new foot overbridge for the benefit of pedestrians near Benniganahalli metro station. Officials said the existing bridge, near Tin Factory, will be dismantled once the new one is ready.

Woman PSI fined for riding pillion without helmet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The photo of a woman police sub-inspector riding pillion on a motorcycle without a helmet was captured by a motorist, and he put up a post questioning the enforcement agency, which went viral on social media. The post questioned why no action was taken against the officer.

As the picture went viral, senior police officials took cognizance and asked the jurisdictional Cubbon Park traffic police to take necessary action. The police tracked down the officer based on the registration number of the bike and slapped a fine with a warning to wear helmet while riding motorcycle.

It may be recalled that traffic department had issued a directions to the traffic police to wear full face and ISI mark helmet compulsorily, after a drive was launched against bikers wearing sub-standard helmets.

A senior police officer said that there are exceptions for the policemen in some cases while others who are riding bikes should wear full-face standard helmets.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (May 19, Friday), the following explainer is available:

- Elections and the airwaves
bit.ly/pollairwaves

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAY. 19	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:39
RISE 05:24	SET 18:28
SATURDAY, MAY. 20	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:39
RISE 06:10	SET 19:25
SUNDAY, MAY. 21	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:39
RISE 07:00	SET 20:21

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	27
Mysuru	36	22
Bengaluru	35	24

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and uneasy . Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Police officials suspended

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada Superintendent of Police Vikram Amate on Thursday suspended sub inspector Srinath Reddy and constable Harshith of Puttur Rural police station, in connection with the alleged atrocity against persons accused of displaying a banner demeaning Nalin Kumar Kateel, MP, and former CM D.V. Sadananda Gowda. Mr Gowda is an MP and a former Union Minister. The SP recommended initiation of suitable disciplinary action against the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Puttur sub-division.

The action was taken on the basis of a complaint by Avinash, a resident of Narimogru, one of the nine accused persons in the case, who was secured and allegedly assaulted by the police.

According to Dr. Amate, a preliminary inquiry by the Additional Superintendent of Police confirmed the police atrocity against the accused.

Based on the complaint, the Puttur Town police registered cases under Sections 323, 325 and 506 (read with 341) of the Indian Penal Code – for assault with a weapon that could cause death, criminal intimidation and wrongful restraint – against the accused police personnel, including the Deputy SP of Puttur sub-division, the sub inspector and the constable.

BEML, BHEL, and Spain-based company bid to supply AC coaches for suburban rail project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited, K-RIDE, has received bids from three major companies, including one Spain-based firm to supply air-conditioned coaches for Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

Three firms - Spain-based Construcciones y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) - have participated in the bid for the first stage of tender request for quote which was opened on May 16, according to officials. The officials said that based on the proposal, the lowest bidder will be awarded the contract to supply the air-conditioned coaches for BSRP and maintain the coaches.

K-RIDE, a special purpose vehicle, is a joint venture of the Karnataka government and the Ministry of Railways established to implement the 148 km suburban rail project in the city. On June 20, Prime Minister Modi had laid the foundation for the project and promised Bengalureans that the project will be a reality in 40 months. In the first phase, the K-RIDE had chosen the Baiyyappanahalli-Chikkabanavara corridor for implementation. As part of the rail networks, a total of 57 stations will come up and many of the stations will be integrated with existing and proposed metro stations, bus stands and railway stations. The total project cost of the entire four corridors is ₹15,676 crore.

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TENDER ALERT

1)E-Tender Call Notice No.CPC-07/2023-24: Bids invited from reputed manufacturers in two part bidding system for supply of Porcelain long rod insulators at an estimated cost of Rs.8,48,60,703/-.

2)E-Tender Call Notice No.01/2023-24: Bids invited from reputed manufacturers of OPGW/ EPC Contractors under single stage two-envelop system for Engineering, Supply and erection (Stringing) of OPGW and Accessories along with installation & commissioning of Digital protection coupler in the existing 220kV Kesinga-Baliguda line of OPTCL under O/O-CGM (Telecom), OPTCL Headquarters Office at an estimated cost of Rs.3,11,51,873/-

3)E-Tender Call Notice No.CHP-02/2023-24: Repairing of Fire Fighting System at 400/220/1352kV Grid S/S, Meramundali under EHT O&M Circle, Chainpal at an estimated cost of Rs.33,50,209/-.

For more details please visit: **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** and OPTCL's official website: **www.optcl.co.in.**

HIPR-12/2023-24
CAD-636 OIPR-04011/11/0032/2324

/ www.optcl.co.in /optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha

BUSINESS CONNECT A Business Initiative

Manipal Hospital, Whitefield performs Orbital Atherectomy, the first ever performed in Karnataka

The patient Mrs Anubha, 58 years old was admitted to Manipal Hospital Whitefield in the emergency department on 6th April, with a mild heart attack (non-ST elevation myocardial infarction). Dr. Pradeep Haranahalli, Consultant - Interventional Cardiologist, Manipal Hospital Whitefield assessed the patient which revealed that she had triple vessel blocks with heavy calcium deposits. After considering the risk factors involved in other conventional procedures, the doctor suggested a technology called Orbital Atherectomy to manage her condition. Orbital Atherectomy is a relatively new technology in India, and Mrs. Anubha's case was the first case in Bangalore and only a few cases that are done in India so far. It involves a diamond-coated crown that spins at high speed to ablate and chisel out the hard calcium deposits into fine particles of size 2 microns which get washed away in the bloodstream. The technology also delivers a shock-like impact on the vessel wall to crack the calcium deposits, making the vessel wall supple enough to allow the stent to expand adequately. Patients who have blockages with heavy calcium deposits and elderly patients who go through the dilemma of considering CABG in their senescence are eligible to undergo this procedure. Dr. Pradeep Haranahalli adds, "Conventional balloon angioplasty and stenting can't be performed on patients like Anubha who have heavily calcified blockages. It needs additional tools to clear the calcium before going ahead with stenting. Usually, these patients are suggested for bypass surgery. But since she had neurological comorbidities, she was not suitable for an open procedure. Thus, this new technology called Orbital atherectomy was used to clear the heavily calcified coronary arteries before stenting." The procedure was performed successfully, and the patient was discharged from the hospital on 10th April. In the future, this technology may provide an alternative treatment option for patients who are not high-risk candidates for bypass surgery and have heavy calcification in their coronary arteries.

"Rare Scents" infused with real 24 Karat Gold Flakes of C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers

Mr Chaitanya V Cotha, Executive Director, 150 Year Luxury Jewellery House C Krishniah Chetty Group Of Jewellers says "For a luxury jeweller like C. Krishniah Chetty, a brand extension like luxury perfumes was thought of as a good brand fit. We wanted to create the first luxury perfume brand from India that could compete with any international brand. And finally, we have Rare Scents infused with real 24 karat gold flakes, which we believe is 'A Whiff Of The Exotic!'" Rare Scents come in five distinct fragrances - Adamas, Beryl, Corundum, Platinum and Aurum. Available in 50 and 100 ml bottles.The Indian perfume market has a distinguished brand in its diverse portfolio. Rare Scents. It's India's only premium, luxury perfume brand, a niche that C. Krishniah Chetty has filled - the 150-year old heritage luxury jeweller from Bangalore, India.These perfumes are a pure combination of essential oils with real 24 karat gold that resonates with a intoxicating sense of elegance, sophistication, masculinity, enhancing your aura and packed in an aesthetically handcrafted bottle. These perfumes mark today's Gen Z, giving them their grand entrance and lasting impression.The key features : Rare Scents has ingredients that are from over 25 different countries. Infused with real 24 karat gold flakes. Taken over 369 days to prerfect it with the best perfumers. Bottles imported from Europe. Lasts almost the full day (8hours).Rare Scents is in the Niche Category of perfumes, one step above luxury brands.Available across all showrooms of C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers in contents of 50 ml and 100 ml and on the click of button at www.ckcjewellers.com/rare-scents

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

ॐ 卐 श्रीः

|| Shivaganaradhane ||

DOB : 20-05-1964 DOD : 09-05-2023

Shri Jagadish H Eligar
Chief Engineer (CGM NHAI)

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the peaceful passing of Shri Jagadish H Eligar, a loving father, husband and a dedicated officer who served his country with utmost dedication. He left for his heavenly abode on 09-05-2023 at 11:20 pm., We invite you to join us for the Prayers (Shivaganaradhane) which will be held on Sunday, 21-05-2023, 12.30 pm to pray for the eternal peace of his soul.

: Deeply Mourned by :
Wife : Smt. Renuka J Eligar
Sons : Mr. Yatishchandra J Eligar, Mr. Gurkirana J Eligar
Relatives and Friends

: Address :
#780, Shri Vishnu Shankara Nivasa,
4th Main Road, 8th Cross, Gruhalakshmi Layout
Nelagadirenahalli, Nagasandra, Benagluru - 560073

DEATH

OBITUARY

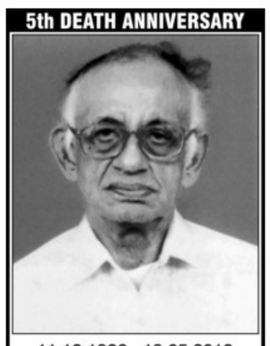
Smt. Mangalam Narayanaswamy
W/o. Late Sri G. Narayanaswamy, FCA
Senior Partner, S.Venkatram & Co. LLP
Chartered Accountants, Chennai
Passed away peacefully at her residence and Cremated in Chennai on 18th May, 2023
Address: New No. 218, T.T.K Road, Alwarpet, Chennai - 600018.

Partners and Staff	G.Sitharaman
S.Venkatram & Co. LLP	G. Natarajan
Chartered Accountants	and Relatives

Contact No : 94440 81587, 94440 81592, 044-2499 2155

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



11.12.1926 - 19.05.2018
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Former Director, Ramanujam Institute of Mathematics
S/o. (Late) Shri Manakkampatte Kesavan Unni Nair & (Late) Smt V.K. Janaki

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, V.SAKKU Bai W/o Late K.Murugesan residing at No.236, MIMS North West appartment, HRBR Layout 2nd Block, Bangalore 560043, my correct name V. Sakku Bai and date of birth is 02.06.1951 as per Aadhar, PAN and Voter ID. But in ECHS card my name is recorded wrongly as Shakubai and birth date as 06.01.1949. i submit affidavit dtd. 17.05.2023, Sworn before advocate & Notary Uday Kumar.K. Bangalore- 560024

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANAK kumar Athreya thiruvaiyaru panchapagesan, S/o panchapagesan thiruvaiyaru swaminatha, R/O. at–No–432, 5th crs, jrd tata nagar, Kodigehalli,Blr–92, have changed my name as Sanak kumar Athreya, vide affidavit dated 13/05/2023

I, MOHMAD Razool Abdal Rahim, R/o No.647, 7th Cross, 2nd Block, 1st stage, Behind BDA Complex, HBR Layout, Bangalore-560043 have changed my name to Mohammed Razool vide affidavit dt: 15.05.2023 sworn before Notary C.Sharada, B'lore

I Kudaravalli Swetha alias Shwetha Kudaravalli alias K Shwetha D/o Rajendra Prasad, W/o Johnny Jacob, residing at No J407, 4th Floor,Nandi Citadel, 1 A Main Road, Akshayavana, Chandrasekharapura, Akshayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560076, have changed my name to Shwetha Kudaravalli for all purposes in future.

I Nikita Hanabaratti alias Nikita Paris Hanabaratti D/o Paris Savant Hanabaratti, W/o Sagar Shrimant Halappanavar, residing at 385,Prakruthi,Thayimane Layout, Kodathi Gate, Sarjapura Road,, Behind Shell Petrol Bunk,Kodathi, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560035, have changed my name to Nikita Halappanavar for all purposes in future

I, RICHARDSON M R Fary alias Richardson, S/o S Remmees, R/o No.81, Fairy House, Kalathur Layout, Gangamma Circle, Jalahalli, Bangalore-560013, Karnataka have changed my name to Richardson Remigius vide affidavit dt: 16.05.2023 sworn before Notary Ambika.S, B'lore.

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

How Hollywood finally cracked the video game adaptation

With *The Last of Us* and *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* turning out to be immensely successful, here's a deep dive into the history of the genre, the infamous video-game movie curse and how it was broken

Gopinath Rajendran

Here's a fun fact: Google *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* and a small NES-era question block will appear at the top of the page next to the film's name. Click on it to hear the signature 8-bit coin sound, and every 100 clicks will get you the satisfying sound of a 1-Up (the author, in the name of research, personally verified this). Google's hat tip to a film which released more than one month ago is the result of it going where no other video game adaptation has.

The Super Mario Bros. Movie has grossed over $1.2 billion worldwide, setting multiple box-office records, including the biggest worldwide opening weekend for an animated film and the highest-grossing film based on a video game. It also became the highest-grossing film of 2023 and the fifth highest-grossing animated film. If the big screen is filled with adventures of plumbers of Italian heritage in the mushroom kingdom, *The Last of Us*, on OTT, took that fungi trope up a notch.

The premiere of the series, set in a post-apocalyptic world caused by a mass fungal infection, was watched by 4.7 million viewers on the first day – the second-biggest for HBO since 2010 – and almost 40 million within two months; by March, the first six episodes averaged over 30 million viewers.

The success of this film and the series is a benchmark when it comes to video game adaptations because, almost always till this year, such adaptations have rarely worked and have mostly been critically panned. Barring a few instances, these adaptations have rarely even come close to the first checkpoint, while the games they were based on have been levels ahead.

Let us look at where it all began, the challenges of adapting a video game, why the ones that happened weren't good enough and what finally changed.

A still from the show, *The Last of Us*.

The days of blowing into cartridges

Despite *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* taking home the prize of being the film that turned the tide for video game adaptations, it was ironically the same franchise that started this trend and it was a disaster from *World 1-1. Super Mario Bros.* (1993) was the first feature-length live-action film based on a video game and a glimpse of what the film has in store would explain why it's a fiasco.

Over the years, famous series such as *Tomb Raider* and *Assassin's Creed* also failed to produce film franchises that have matched the successes of their game counterparts.

There are multiple reasons for this transition not yielding the desired results and interestingly, the biggest one is how games already look and feel like films these days.

Gaming has come a long since the days of 2D constructs and with open-world set-up turning out to be a game-changer, the possibilities of coming up with an intriguing story said cinematically have become endless.

Until we get to see pokemons roaming the streets of India or we get to race cars on them on our quest for the 'Need for Speed', the interactivity the games provide is hard to translate into feature films. If films are a mix of audio and video elements, gaming adds multiple layers to it in the form of puzzles, side quests or even just having the option to lazily roam around.

In one of his blog posts, Jack Wentworth-Weedon, coordinator of Festival and Cinema Events at the National Science and Media Museum, U.K., said, "Both film and gaming have their place, as do music and still images, but when you try and adapt backwards, you take away the elements that contribute to the whole experience.

Making a film version of a game like *Breath of the Wild* would be like trying to capture *Forrest Gump* through the medium of music or with a painting."

It's also an open secret that such adaptations are not popular with filmmakers and hence, we rarely see an established name attached to such a film. Even when they tried – Peter Jackson's *Halo* project, Pirates of the Caribbean director Gore Verbinski's *Bioshock* and John Woo's *Metroid* – the film never took shape for various reasons.

Given how the target audience for game adaptations happens to be those who know the game, most of these adaptations have failed to live up to their expectations predominantly because of their inability to stay faithful to the source material.

For example, in the *Uncharted* games, Nathan's mentor, Sully, is a white-haired, seasoned treasure hunter with his best days behind him. In the 2022 film, he was played by Mark Wahlberg.

Then comes the trouble of compressing a game, that's usually many hours long, into a film's runtime. *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* is 11.5 hours long, while the 2001 Angelina Jolie-starrer of the same name is 101 minutes. Completing the main objectives of *Resident Evil* takes seven hours, while completing all aspects will take 15.

The 2002 film that kickstarted the franchise was just 100 minutes; you get the drift.

This is why *The Last of Us* series is a revelation as games can find stride in long-format storytelling.

The checkpoint to reset them all

Interestingly, though most video game adaptations haven't been well received by critics and many of them have not been accepted by the audience, what's also an undisputed fact is that many of these adaptations have been financially successful. *Pokémon Detective Pikachu* (2019), one of the first successful live-action adaptations, made at a budget of $150 million ended up collecting almost three times that number at the box office. On the small screen, the animated series, *Castlevania* (2017) on Netflix successfully had four seasons with a follow-up series, *Castlevania: Nocturne*, in the works. *Cyberpunk: Edgerunners* is also an equally stunning adaptation.

Speaking about animated series, this list cannot be completed without *Arcane* (2021) – based on the legendary *League of Legends* game – which has been having a dream run on Netflix. Fascinatingly, animated versions of video games have comparatively fared way better compared to their live-action counterparts. But with the Sonic films and the recently released live-action adaptations that have turned on to receive favourable responses, it's high time we call bluff on the video game adaptation curse.

A lesson learnt from content that has worked is to figure out the most important elements that are fundamentally inseparable from the title and retain them. Films such as *Warcraft* (2016), *Assassin's Creed* (2016), and *Prince of Persia* (2010) had fantastic world-building but substandard characters, while it was the other way around for *Sonic* (2020) or Tomb Raider (2018). There have also been films such as *Mortal Kombat* (2021), *Monster Hunter* (2020), and *Doom* (2005) that suffered from both issues. While the basic idea for studios is to make money and they already have an audience in the form of game lovers who cannot wait to see their favourite stories reimagined for the big screen, what is often undermined is how fans are protective of the IP (intellectual property).

The case in point is the *Sonic* controversy, where fans weren't happy with the titular hedgehog's appearance and the film team changed the output for the final film. Greg Spence, executive producer of *The Last of Us*, during the promotion of the series, said, "We have to love the characters, love the relationships, love all the little details by understanding it and playing it. All these things then lead to a place where you can carry the soul though. Anything else is calculated, cynical and probably won't work."

Coming back to *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*, the film had a big budget, one of the best animation studios and a star-studded voice cast. But why risk with a genre that has mostly not worked? Because we're into cinematic universes now and that's bigger than games and standalone films can be. Marvel and *Star Wars* proved it to be a successful model and given how the animated film ends with a lead for a sequel, this theory sounds quite plausible. These games have already created a universe and all that the films have to do is come up with a story that would fit into that universe.

Ready player one

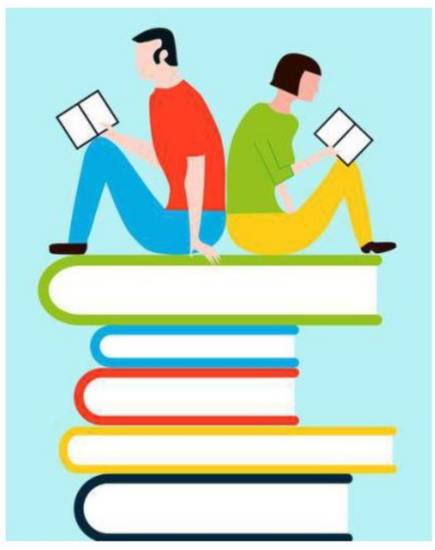
While not all game adaptations can fit into the classic three-act structure of feature films, having several instalments can do wonders for them. Meanwhile, for the smaller screen, *The Witcher* and *The Last of Us* have proved that long-format storytelling is the perfect choice of games with tonnes of lore and backstory. *The Last of Us* series proved that it's possible to translate the active video gaming user experience to a passive film-watching user experience with a duration that can uphold the immense source material. With films spread across a franchise or a series, the creative freedom and runtime leeway will aid in adapting the aspects that made the games successful.

Given how we're pushing the envelope when it comes to storytelling, and games work, thanks to the freedom it gives its players, imagine a film like that was done in the format of the *Black Mirror: Bandersnatch*, where we get to choose the outcome. Ironically, this freedom has been the cornerstone of comics and games which were once considered inferior entertainment. Similarly, comic books were difficult to adapt, given the number of pages in each issue for every character. That's why Marvel took just the story concepts and characters from the comics and created an entirely new story. This has worked wonders for them because they honour the source material, while also keeping even the comic book fans guessing on what will happen next.

The video game industry is booming, generating $100 billion annually in the U.S. alone. All it comes down to now is to transpose the game's universe into a film. It's unarguably a fact that gaming as a medium will never be fully translated into films, it's the job of the films to achieve the tone and themes of the games within their plots. Last, but certainly not the least, like every other film, a good story at its core separates the upcoming adaptations to make or break the space created by the success in recent times.

David Menkin, in a recent video for BAFTA, said, "I think games are being co-opted by film and TV in a different way than it used to be. If you were making a big franchise movie, you had to have a game tie-in. But now, film producers are starting to see that it doesn't start with the film anymore. It starts with the story."

Speaking of games with brilliant storylines, imagine finally getting to see an adaptation of *Red Dead Redemption*, which was actually inspired by classic westerns such as *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, and *The Searchers*. A cinephile would call it life coming a full circle, while a gamer would probably name it *Halo*.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subramanian

" Sir, Mr. S. Ganesan, Zonal Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, 4, Promenade Road, Tiruchirapalli, wants to know whether 'in vogue' can be used to mean 'in use'. He feels that it must be used in the sense of 'in fashion'."

"Mr. Ganesan is right. 'Vogue' means 'the prevalent mode of fashion', 'popular favour', 'acceptance'. When it is used in the sense of 'fashion', it is generally used with 'the'.

Socialism is the vogue now.

'In vogue' means 'in fashion', 'popular'.

There was a time when his novels were in vogue but not now.

'Vogue words' are words that are in fashion at a particular time. Words like 'syndrome', 'feedback', 'charisma', 'ecology', 'interface' and 'parameter' are some vogue words. It is fashionable to use these words now. They are in vogue now. They will be out of vogue sooner or later."

"Sir, Mr. Chandrasekhar Swain, Cuttack, wants to know the meaning of the term 'dark horse'."

"A dark horse is a racehorse 'with unexpected or unknown capabilities'. We know very little about it. Sometimes it may win most unexpectedly. In politics, 'a dark horse' is a person who is practically unknown but becomes successful in an election as a result of some compromise."

"Sir, Mr. Manjit Singh of Patiala wants to know the meaning of the word, 'uxorious'."

"A person who is excessively fond of his wife is said to be 'uxorious'. 'Uxor' in Latin means 'wife'."

"How is it pronounced, sir?"

" 'U' is pronounced like the 'u' in 'luck'. The first 'o' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'glorious'. 'Ous' is pronounced like the 'ous' in 'pious'; 'x' is pronounced like the 'x' in 'mix'. I hope I have made myself clear. Incidentally, 'uxoricide' means 'killing of one's wife'. It also means a person who kills his wife. What's the next question?"

"Sir, Mr. S.R. Kanaka Sekar, School Assistant, Government Higher Secondary School, Thammampatti, Tamil Nadu, wants to know the meaning of 'double entendre'."

" 'Double entendre' means 'double meaning'. It is an expression with two meanings, one of which is generally indecent. 'Double entendre' is from French.

I couldn't stand their double-entendres. They were in poor taste."

"Sir, how is it pronounced?"

"It is pronounced 'doobl aantaandr'. 'Ou' in 'double' is pronounced like the 'oo' in 'fool'. The final 'e' is silent The first two e's in 'entendre' are pronounced like the 'a' in 'path'. The final 'e' is silent. 'Dr' is pronounced like the 'dr' in 'drink', 'drive'."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

"Goodbye."

Published in The Hindu on January 26, 1988.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Recently, doctors have taken to the streets, protesting the death of a medical intern in Kerala. Here's a tribute to some doctors who have changed the course of history

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1

An ancient Greek scientist and his accomplice were accused of cutting up human bodies to study them. But this led the scientist to chronicle the human body in its myriad intricacies. For this, he was feted as the father of human anatomy. Name him.

QUESTION 2

She was the first woman to graduate as a medical student in the U.S., and also the first woman to register herself as a physician in the medical register in the U.K. Name her.

QUESTION 3

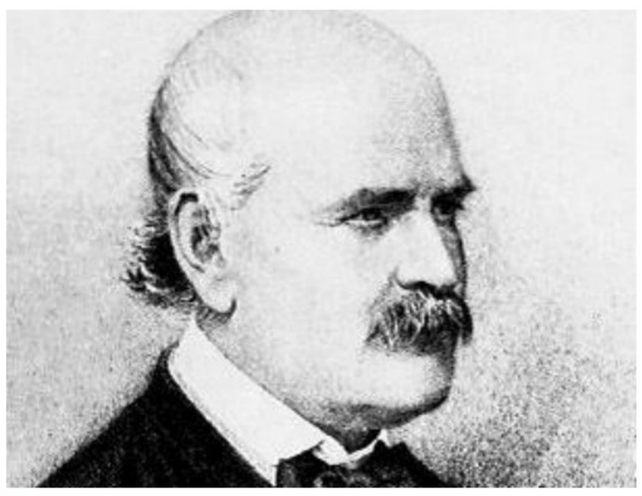
It is said that when she was 12 years old, she had decided to become a doctor. She set her path, and went on to do M.B.B.S from the Madras Medical College in 1949. When Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy started a new venture in Chennai, she was among the first to sign up. Who are we talking about and what was the new venture?

QUESTION 4

Who was the first to describe systemic circulation in the human body?

QUESTION 5

A young Canadian was awarded Nobel Prize for Physiology/Medicine, along with a collaborator at the University of Toronto. He remains the youngest recipient in that category as he was 32 at the time. The Nobel Committee recognised him for his work that delivered 'the greatest benefit to human kind' in the field of diabetes care. Who was he and what was his Nobel for?



Visual question:

An innovation by a Hungarian doctor in Vienna brought down the number of deaths among mothers who had just delivered, dying from childbed fever. Name him and the innovation ?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Which NBA player was the last high school player to be drafted No 1? And in which year? **Ans: Dwight Howard, 2004**

2. If Wembanyama is picked No 1, he will be the first player picked from a non-U.S. playing team since 2006 when X was picked. Name X and the country to which he belonged to. **Ans: Andrea Bargnani, Italy**

3. This player, picked No 1 in the late 1990s went to play for 12 NBA teams. Name him. **Ans: Joe Smith**

4. This NBA player was drafted No 1 by the San Antonio Spurs but went to play for the team two years after the draft. Name him and his nickname. **Ans: David Robinson, The Admiral**

5. In the 2010s, which two teams won the right to pick first in two consecutive years? **Ans: Cleveland Cavaliers, Philadelphia 76ers**

Visual: Name this basketball player. **Ans: Hakeem Olajuwon**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | V. Siddhartha

Word of the day

Irascible:
showing a tendency to be easily angered

Synonyms: irritable, short-tempered

Usage: *Peter was certainly an irascible man who made enemies easily.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/42Sy4Cr

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪˈrasɪb(ə)l/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

BBMP officials recover eight guntas of Kaggadasapura lake area

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As officials and the security personnel tasked with guarding Kaggadasapura Lake were busy in election duty, a private company from Mumbai had encroached eight guntas of the lake area and built a compound wall and labour sheds to claim the ownership.

The security staff guarding the lake returned from the special election duty to find the encroachments, on Thursday. When officials went to check on the encroachments, representatives of the private firm allegedly prevented them from entering the area and manhandled them.

The encroached land in Kaggadasapura lake area that was recovered by BBMP officials. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Officials informed their seniors and soon, the officials returned with additional police security cover and recovered the encroached 8 guntas of land and fenced it. Additional security personnel to patrol the area.

Nithya J., executive engineer, BBMP lakes, East Division, in her complaint, said that the lake was spread across 32.14 acres in the area main source for water rejuvenation and conserve greenery. However, the accused private firm encroached the lake bed area at the southern side of the lake close to Jalakantheshwara temple. The accused company had encroached the underdeveloped jogging track and seating arrangements, but also put a broad to claim the ownership.

Based on a complaint by Ms. Nithya, the Byappanahalli police registered an FIR charging Rail Management Consultancy Male India Pvt. Ltd. under The Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority Act and also under section 427 (mischief) 506 (criminal intimidation) 341 (wrongful restrain) 447 (criminal trespass) and 353 (Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of IPC. We have submitted a report to the Commissioner regarding the incident for further action, Ms. Nithya , said.

CET aspirants worry about possible traffic snarls on the day new CM is sworn in

KEA is in touch with the Bengaluru Traffic Police, and the traffic advisory will be released on Friday. A police officer says that there will not be too many roadblocks in the CBD area

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Students appearing for CET-2023 exams on Saturday, are worried about possible traffic hassles as the swearing in of the new Chief Minister is being held on the same day at 12.30 p.m. at Kanteerava stadium in a grand manner.

The Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has scheduled the Mathematics and Biology papers from 10.30 a.m.

CET 2023 students are worried about possible traffic congestion on Saturday, as the swearing-in ceremony will be held on the exam day at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

In CBD area

The students whose exam centers are at Central Business District (CBD) areas are worries since supportes and party workers are expected to start pouring into the city early. Bengaluru Traffic Police has not yet issued any advisory and this has added to the the students' worry.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a CET aspirant said, "My test centre is located few minutes away from the Kanteerava Stadium. There are no instructions by the traffic police or KEA in this regard." Ramya S., Executive Director of KEA, said, "We are in touch with the Bengaluru Traffic Police and the traffic advisory will be released on Friday. A police official said that there will not be too many roadblocks in the CBD area. But we have instructed students that they should reach the centres early in the morning on Saturday." This year as many as 2,61,610 candidates have registered for the examination. Out of the total 592 centres, 121 centres are located in Bengaluru and 471 centres exist in the rest of the state. The KEA has appointed 592 Observers, 1184 special invigilation squad members, 592 custodians, 10,900 invigilators and a total of 23,050 officials have been deployed to discharge examination duties. Video coverage has been arranged at examination centres.

Candidates have been advised to visit KEA Website http://kea.kar.nic.in

One of the first challenges before new govt. is negotiating with pvt. medical colleges on their demand for fee hike

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The new government all set to be sworn in on Saturday, will face one of its first challenges in negotiating this academic year's consensual agreement on seat sharing and fee for medical and dental courses. Given that the incoming Congress government has been elected on the plank of providing succour to people affected by price rise through various welfare schemes, this will be a challenge.

Coming on the back of breakdown of talks over proposed fee hike for these courses last academic year, Karnataka Private Medical and Dental Colleges Association is all set to play hardball demanding a fee hike this year. It has been four years since there has been a hike, they claim. Last year, they demanded a 15% fee hike, while the State government accepted a hike of 10% and the talks broke down.

"Since four years there has been no fee hike for medical courses in the State. During the COVID-19 period, we faced a lot of challenges. Introducing new courses, new medical equipment, new technology in the medical field and providing salaries and bearing expenses of other facilities has been a challenge. Unless we increase the medical course fee, we cannot sustain this. Therefore, we have decided to submit the proposal for fee hike, once a full fledged government is formed," said Dr. M. R. Jayaram, Honorary Secretary, Karnataka Private Medical and Dental Colleges Association.

While earlier the seat sharing was at a 60:40 ratio between private colleges and the government, it has now been modified to 50:50, following an order by the National Medical Commission (NMC). This is also one of the reasons why they are seeking a fee hike, sources said.

Additional seats

Meanwhile, the State will

Karnataka will add only 150 new undergraduate medical and dental seats this year

add only 150 new undergraduate medical and dental seats this year, as against 897 seats added last year.

The Directorate of Medical Education (DME), Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to the National Medical Commission (NMC) seeking permission to operationalise Chitradurga Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS) from the 2023-24 academic year. The new college has a capacity of 150 seats.

"This year we have submitted a proposal for one additional government medical college. However, there are no proposals from private managements for either new colleges or additional seats. So, the State will add 150 seats this year," said Dr. K. Ravi, Director, DME. Among 67 medical colleges, there are 23 Government and 44 Private and Deemed-to-be Medical Universities have a total seat capacity of 11,042 for undergraduate medical and dental courses. To this, 150 seats will be added this year, taking the total number of seats to 11192. Last year, NMC had approved three government medical colleges in Haveri, Yadgir and Chickmagalur districts with 150 seats each, apart from Siddaganga Medical College and Research Institute, in Tumkur with 150 seats. It also approved expansion of several existing colleges, adding a total of 897 seats last year.

Woman killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 43-year-old woman was killed on the spot when a speeding truck knocked her down on Begur Koppa road on Wednesday.

The deceased Alia Bibi, native of West Bengal and working in SNN Raj Serenity Apartment, was on her way to work on Wednesday morning. She was crossing the road when the truck, heading towards Begur, knocked her down. The severely bleeding Alia Bibi was rushed to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared her as brought dead. The driver abandoned the truck and escaped. Hulimavu traffic police have registered a case of hit and run and are investigating.

Correction

In the news item, "Around 2.6 lakh students will write the CET this year", which appeared in these columns on May 18, the date of the Biology and Maths exams should be read as May 20, and that of Physics and Chemistry May 21, and not as published.

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SCAN TO APPLY

Controversies surrounding bike taxis refuse to die down in Bengaluru

Right from the time bike taxi services began, it has been mired in controversies. While the operators are offering employment to several people, other transport aggregators are complaining that bike taxis are being allowed to run without any regulations. Among the users, while some see it as a low-fare alternative to autorickshaws, others fear harassment and rash driving by the riders

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

Among those who have attached their vehicle with aggregators include gig workers, students, and those working in unorganised sectors such as garment industry. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Bike taxi services made their debut on Bengaluru roads in 2015-16. Since then, controversies surrounding the services have refused to die. When the aggregators, including Bengaluru-based startups, introduced the service, the Transport Department came down heavily on them by impounding vehicles and booking cases against owners of two-wheelers who attached vehicles with the aggregators. Owners of the bike were made to cough up a penalty of over ₹5,000 for violating various rules, including using private vehicles (whiteboard vehicles) for commercial gain.

Continued action by the department forced the aggregators to either suspend or stop the services for some time. One of the start-ups even shut down. The action taken by the Transport Department received mixed reactions from the bike taxi users. People who were in favour of the service had argued that bike taxis provide an affordable mode of transport, work as last-mile connectivity, and metropolitan cities like Bengaluru should have more travel options for the people.

People had also ridiculed the Transport Department for taking action without bringing guidelines on bike taxis (it was only in 2021 that a scheme was announced for the introduction of only e-bike taxis in Karnataka). The Transport Department officials, meanwhile, had maintained that aggregators were providing services against provisions of law as they are using private vehicles for commercial purposes, and customers are at risk of not getting insurance coverage if they meet with road accidents. They were citing issues of safety of women travellers and so on.

Post-pandemic developments

It is said that after the outbreak of COVID-19, the number of users of bike taxi services has started gradually increasing. Auto and taxi drivers who were in financial distress induced by the pandemic opposed bike taxi services vehemently as they are directly competing with them and eating into their revenue.

There were many instances of auto drivers staging protests and carrying out "drives" to catch riders using personal bikes for commercial purposes and handing them over to police and RTOs. Exerting pressures on the State government, the federation of auto unions in the city observed a day-long strike on March 20, earlier this year.

Why do rules apply only to auto drivers?

M. Manjunath, president, Adarsh Auto and Taxi Drivers' Union, said that for years bike taxis in the State were allowed to run without any regulation. "If one wants to run an auto, it is mandatory to hold a permit and badge, and the vehicle should be registered as a commercial vehicle. The authorities also regulate us by fixing fares, and it is also mandatory to fix digital metres. No rules apply to bike taxi operators. Whoever has a bike can attach the vehicle and use it for commercial purposes. These illegal operations are eating into the revenue of auto drivers. There are over 2.10 lakh autos plying on city roads. They are badly impacted by this illegal business," he said.

Another auto driver, Kishore G., said, "Increasing number of bike taxis has resulted in a reduced number of booking for us. It is very hard to find a single passenger who is booking an auto. No one regulates fares for bike taxis, whereas all rules apply to us. In other States, the government took bold steps like banning illegal bike taxis. But in our State, the Transport Department spent years without taking stern action against illegal operations."

Source of income for thousands

On the other hand, people relying on bike taxi services to earn livelihood say that more than 1.1 lakh bike taxis may be in the city, out of which 80,000 to 90,000 are active. Among those who have attached their vehicle with aggregators include gig workers, students, and those working in unorganised sectors such as garments, factories and others.

"Thousands of people have taken up bike taxis as full-time and part-time work. I am a student, and it has helped me earn money during non-college hours. I also support my family and meet my educational expenses. Like me, it has been benefiting thousands of people," said Ganesha, a bike taxi rider.

They complain that some of the auto drivers continue to target them for riding bike taxis. Harish, another rider, said, "Recently, I had dropped a person at a private hospital in Vasanth Nagar. An auto driver, who sensed that I was riding a bike taxi, started questioning me. After some time, I managed to escape from him."

In the past, there have been instances of auto drivers harassing bike taxi riders and destroying their helmets and snatching mobiles. In March, bike taxi riders staged a protest demanding action against auto and taxi drivers.

Bike riders say those who work full-time can earn ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 depending on the number of bookings. "The aggregator pays ₹7 per km for riders up to 10 km; beyond that, a rider gets ₹10 per km. On weekends and during peak hours, there is more demand for bike taxis. Riders also get incentives depending on how many bookings they service, accepting peak hour booking and others," said Harish.

> No one regulates fares for bike taxis, whereas all rules apply to us. In other States, the government took bold steps like banning illegal bike taxis. But in our State, the Transport Department spent years without taking stern action against illegal operations.
>
> **KISHORE G.**
> auto driver

Will go by court order, says commissioner

However, there is no clarity as yet, on the legal position of bike taxis. Transport Commissioner S.N. Siddaramappa said, "When the department took action against the bike taxi operations which are running without obtaining any licence, the aggregators had approached the Karnataka High Court. We will go by the decision of the court."

No takers for e-bike taxi scheme

In 2021, the State government launched an e-bike taxi scheme for the State. However, so far, no one has come forward to provide the services under the new scheme. The State government had also fixed the fare of ₹25 for the first five kilometres and ₹50 for rides between 5 to 10 km.

An official of the department said, "After the scheme was launched, we received an application from a private organisation which was previously providing bike-on-rent service in the city. Though the permit was issued to them to introduce the e-bike taxi service, so far they have not introduced the service."

Regulated bike taxi services required

Urban mobility expert and convenor of the Sustainable Transportation Lab of IISc Dr. Ashish Verma said that regulated bike taxi service for short distance travel is required in the city to address last-mile connectivity.

"Considering the expansion of metro services in the city, there is a need to address last and first-mile connectivity issues. A regulated bike taxi service could be a solution for commuters who are looking for short-distance travel to reach the office or their residence. However, long-distance travel using bike taxis is not advisable as two-wheelers are more vulnerable to road accidents," he said.

He added that authorities should protect the interest of the riders and customers in terms of fixing fares and prioritising the safety of women using the service. The lack of last and first-mile connectivity issues remains a concern for Bengalureans. The city has an operational metro network of close to 70 km. Bengaluru has the second longest metro network after Delhi.

A file photo of riders from the Bike Taxi Association staging a silent protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru condemning the attacks on them.

Affordable and available, but woes aplenty – pros and cons of bike taxis

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

On April 21, a female architect booked a bike taxi from her residence in Yelahanka at around 11.10 p.m. to travel to Indiranagar. What followed next was a ride which made her decide that she would not hail a bike taxi again.

On the pretext of checking OTP, the rider, who was later identified by police as Deepak Rao, snatched her phone and allegedly sexually harassed her. While the woman resisted, the rider started to go in a direction different from the one he was supposed to take. To avoid further trouble, the woman jumped off the speeding bike and injured herself. Later, Rao was nabbed by the police.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a close friend of the victim said that better accountability and security were the need of the hour for the safety of the womenfolk during the night hours. "She had been hailing bike taxis for a long time in Kolkata before she moved to Bengaluru, even as late as 11.30-12 in the night. Even here, she had hailed bike taxis several times, but this one incident was traumatising."

Many prefer bike taxis for commuting short distances since usually auto drivers refuse to ply. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The friend further said that taxi aggregator companies should conduct better background verification of drivers to avoid such incidents. "No one takes lifts from random bikes on the road. It is because of these riders' association with certain brands that we hail them. Yet, such problems occur. It would have also been more beneficial if there were more CCTV cameras and police personnel present on the Doddaballapur Road (where the incident occurred) as then, the rider might not have done something like this," they said.

"Needless to say, she is heavily traumatised and will not be hailing another bike taxi ride in a long time," the friend concluded. This one incident sent shockwaves throughout the city and brought to light many problems associated with hailing these "affordable, quick yet scary" carriers. After this and a similar incident which occurred a few months ago, many women have stopped taking bike taxis altogether, while others have grown apprehensive and vigilant.

Apart from the fear of harassment, what scares travellers the most is the rash riding habits of the riders or captains as they are identified by some brands. "I am usually scared to sit on two-wheeler taxis as they want to manoeuvre even an inch gap on roads," said Apurba Banerjee, a PR professional from Vasanthnagar.

Some other women also listed other issues they have faced while hailing bike taxis. "I feel very uncomfortable sitting on bikes which have pillion seats on a higher level as I would almost have to lean against the driver. Additionally, they also do not have quality helmets in case of anything untoward happens. I have also noticed that sometimes riders peep or stare at us through their mirrors," said Nidhi M., an engineer.

The women also said sometimes, the bike captains randomly drop them off around 750 metres to a kilometre away or refuse to come to the pick-up spot and ask the travellers to walk the same distance if there is traffic or sometimes, even without any reasons.

Not just women, but even men have their fair share of problems with bike taxis. "There have been multiple instances where the number plate/model of the bike I received was different from what was shown on the app. This plays with the trust factor. Also, when there is a lot of traffic, it is problematic how rashly these riders go. My reason to take these bikes is mainly because of its low prices and easy availability, but it is not without its cons," said Parimal Saraf, a student from Koramangala.

Not all drivers the same

Speaking about the recent incidents, he said that a few bad apples bring down the quality of the whole basket. "Some people like them do such bad things and then bring a bad name to all of us. Especially with people from other States, where there is a language barrier, a slight miscommunication could lead to bigger misconceptions," he explained.

Safety measures in place claims Rapido

In response to the queries on checking the antecedents of riders and the safety of women travellers, a spokesperson of Rapido said, "Any person willing to onboard with Rapido as a captain has to upload his Aadhaar, driving licence, valid registration certificate for his vehicle, and bank account details. The said documents are verified at the backend by Rapido Support through various government portals. The documents uploaded by the captain are shared with a third-party vendor for background verification of the captain, who raises any red flag post-verification of documents. In case of any red flag, the captain is not onboarded on the Rapido app. The process of verifying criminal antecedents is done through e-courts. There are agencies who help us do this since they have mined the data at e-courts over the years and still keep updating it and thus have created their own vaults/databases through which they are able to do these checks based on name, address, father name, etc."

For the safety of those using the service at night, the aggregator has claimed that the feature of "Night Rides Check" will be helpful. "For those riders who take rides between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Any rider (customer) who uses Rapido during this time period will be contacted by the Rapido call centre for a safety check post the completion of the ride," the spokesperson said.

Other safety features in the app include sharing trip status with the near ones, masking contact of the women booking the ride, and sharing information about the captain and others. The aggregator also claims that both captain and customers are given insurance cover.

When contacted, Uber, which also provides bike taxi services, offered no response.

Culture come alive Scenes from the recently concluded Japan Habba 2023 in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND ANIRUDH NAIR

Anime, origami, and an old, friendship

Japan Habba was back in Bengaluru after two-year hiatus

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.s@thehindu.co.in

It is not every day we see a person in a Nissin Cup Noodles costume casually walking inside the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru. It is also a bit incongruous to see people roaming around, wearing colourful Japanese pop-culture costumes, in the same hallowed campus where brilliant luminaries of Indian science, including CV Raman, Vikram Sarabhai, and Homi J Bhabha, had walked. Once we enter the National Science Seminar Complex, however, it is all things Japan: Kimono-clad people, origami stalls, manga stands, anime characters, sushi rolls, Ikebana products, and an overflowing auditorium witnessing musician Tomokuni Terukina's Sanshin performance.

We are at the 19th edition of Japan Habba. After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, when the cultural-exchange festival was exclusively online, it returned offline this year.

Pavithra Dashmi Parthan, Japan Habba organising committee's chairperson, expected this year's event to be smaller than the previous editions. What happened was counterintuitive. "The response was overwhelming," she says, "About a week before the event, we sold 5,000 tickets. We had to close ticket sales since we can't handle such a big crowd. This is unprecedented."

One of the reasons for the overwhelming response, Pavithra believes, is the rise in the number of anime fans during the pandemic. "I used to teach Japanese part-time two years ago. When my students submitted videos of them speaking Japanese, I was shocked at their high pronunciation levels. They were all into anime."

For many attendees of Japan Habba, anime has served as a gateway to Japanese culture. Nisha Felicita, for instance, has been following anime since she was in school. Initially, she watched them for their stories. "Soon, I started noticing the food, the architecture, and the culture. Being a Tamilian, I noticed similarities between Tamil and Japanese.

For instance, the word for restroom in Japanese is '*otearai*', which sounds like the Tamil word '*oththa arai*', which means a 'single room'. All this is fascinating for me."

Anime is just a part - albeit a significant one - of the prevalent Japanese pop culture in India. Mohammad Ayaan Khan, 15, is more into the centuries-old art form of origami. Being partially sighted, it is among the few pastimes he finds accessible. "It's fun. You can make toys and figures and use it for decorating. It also helps me concentrate," says Mohammad, who wants to be an origami artist.

Among the cosplaying millennials and Gen Zs who thronged the venue, Lilly (name changed), 96, in her red and yellow synthetic saree, stands out like sambar rice on a sushi platter. One wonders, 'What is she doing at Japan Habba? Accompanying a younger family member who could not leave her home alone?'

No. It turns out Lilly has a poignant Japan connection. "I was in Burma from 1931 till the end of the Second World War in 1945. My father was an army doctor and had a medical shop there which was frequented by the Japanese community. I had a friend called Mary there. In '46, when the conflict intensified, we had to flee there in a steamer. We reached Kolkata and from there to Bangalore."

She hasn't met Mary ever since. But a bit of Japan continues to live within her.

Visit japanhabba.org for more information about the event.

STEPOUT

Native strokes

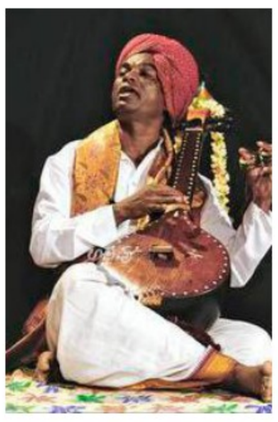
Gallery Time & Space and ArtenBlu presents Sadiyaan — an exhibition of Indian traditional and folk art. Ancient art forms such as pichwai, pattachitra, Gond, Mysuru traditional art and Kalighat are some of the disciplines that will be on display.

On May 20and 21, 11am to 7pm. Call 9980991645 or sadhna@artenblu.in

Back to our roots

Ragi Kana Santhe, a Sunday market and cultural hub, celebrates its sixth anniversary this weekend. There will be workshops on quilting and spinning, discussions, performances and a number of stalls by farmers, handloom weavers and rural artisans.

On May 20 and 21, 9.30 am onwards at Sri Ramakrishna Samagra Shikshana Kendra School Campus, Off Bannerghatta Road.



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Deputy Chief Minister-elect D.K. Shivakumar greeting the crowd as he arrives to attend CLP meeting in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

All-India Congress Committee president M. Mallikarjun Kharge with Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar at his residence in New Delhi.

Siddaramaiah at the KPCC office after the CLP meeting in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Supporters of Siddaramaiah celebrating outside his residence in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Supporters of Siddaramaiah celebrating outside his residence in Bengaluru. PTI

Stage is set for the swearing in of Siddaramaiah as Chief Minister and D.K. Shivakumar as Deputy Chief Minister, both of whom played key roles in the spectacular 135-seat win of the Congress in polls

Siddaramaiah gets picked for second term as CM

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The elevation of 75-year-old Siddaramaiah, who is set to be sworn in as Chief Minister of Karnataka, is a dream come true for the veteran politician who had set his eyes on the coveted position for a second term, after a gap of five years.

Mr. Siddaramaiah will be sworn-in on Saturday in Bengaluru, making him the 24th Chief Minister of the State. He takes charge at a time when the people of Karnataka are looking forward to a stable government. The single-party rule with absolute majority is expected to augur well for Congress in the run-up to the elections to the Lok Sabha in 2024.

The life and career of Siddaramaiah

- Joined school directly for Class IV, as till then he was asked to graze cattle
- Did his BSc from Yuvaraja's College, Mysuru, and took a law degree from Sarada Vilas College, Mysuru
- Came under the influence of farmers' leader M.D. Nanjundaswamy and Ram Manohar Lohia
- Made his political debut in 1978 by becoming a member of the Taluk Development Board, contested the Lok Sabha election from Mysuru in 1980 and tasted defeat
- Made his debut as MLA from Chamundeshwari constituency from Lok Dal in 1983. Extended support to the first non-Congress government, led by Ramakrishna Hegde, and was made chairman of Kannada Watchdog Committee

- In 1985 midterm polls, he contested on the Janata Party ticket and was re-elected from Chamundeshwari. He became a Minister for the first time, holding Sericulture and Animal Husbandry portfolios
- Lost the 1989 Assembly election, and the 1991 Lok Sabha election from Koppal
- Was re-elected to the Assembly in 1994 and became Finance Minister. Elevated as Deputy Chief Minister in 1996-99
- Lost the 1999 Assembly elections. Was re-elected to the Assembly in 2004 and became Deputy Chief Minister in Congress-JD(S) coalition government led by N. Dharam Singh during 2004-06 and held the Finance portfolio
- He was expelled from JD(S) over leading the Ahinda movement outside the party forum in 2006. He was associated with the All-India Progressive Janata Dal and later joined Congress. He won a hard-fought byelection from Chamundeshwari by 252 votes
- He was Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assecambly during 2009-2013
- Became Chief Minister in 2013 and his five-year tenure was known for the 'Bhagya' schemes
- Was Leader of the Opposition from 2019 to 2023

One of two architects

Along with D.K. Shivakumar, Mr. Siddaramaiah is considered as one of the architects of the Congress' victory in the 2023 Assembly elections wherein the party won 135 seats, the highest number after 1989.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who has been a member of the Legislative Assembly eight terms since 1983, although not consecutively, has served in various capacities in governments of the Janata Dal, including as Deputy Chief Minister in the J.H. Patel government in 1996, and N. Dharam Singh government in 2004, as well as the Chief Minister during 2013-18 Congress government.

Mr. Siddaramaiah was disappointed with the Janata Dal (Secular) – headed by its leader Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda – when he was denied the Chief Minister's post and preferred N. Dharam Singh of the Congress for the top job in the formation of the first JD(S)-Congress coalition government in the State in 2004.

From the JD stables

In 2006, Mr. Siddaramaiah quit the JD(S) and joined the Congress along with his followers after serving a brief stint as Deputy Chief Minister in the Dharam Singh government. After exit from the JD(S), Mr. Siddaramaiah was associated with the AHINDA, a movement championing the cause of backward classes, minorities and Dalits.

In 2013, before the Assembly elections, Mr. Siddaramaiah led a padayatra from Bengaluru to Ballari against the alleged illegal mining by the Reddy brothers, which was one of the major factors that powered the Congress to victory in the polls. As then KPCC president G. Parameshwara was defeated in the Assembly elections, Mr. Siddaramaiah was unanimously nominated to the post of the Chief Minister.

Five-year term

He completed his five-year tenure as the Chief Minister from 2013 to 18, only the second person to do so after Devaraj Urs (1972-77) , who too was a backward classes leader like Siddaramaiah. Incidentally, both belong to the Mysuru district.

Mr. Siddaramaiah has presented 13 budgets and launched multiple welfare programmes, branded as "Bhagya" schemes (2013-18). In an attempt to reach out to the Congress tag "catch-all", the government doled out nearly a dozen of flagship welfare schemes, such as free rice or the "Anna Bhagya" scheme or the Indira canteens for the urban poor.

Coalition and collapse

The Congress went to polls in 2018 under the leadership of Mr. Siddaramaiah, but was defeated with only 80 seats. With the support of the party high command, the JD(S)-Congress coalition government was formed under the leadership of H.D. Kumaraswamy, which survived for 14 months. The coalition collapsed in 2019 following a defection of 14 MLAs of the Congress to the BJP under 'Operation Lotus'.The BJP completed the rest of the term.

Mr. Siddaramaiah announced during the run-up to the 2023 Assembly elections that this would be the last election.

Congress' man Friday DKS to be Dy. CM and continue as KPCC chief

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

After four days of hectic parleys in the national capital, the eight-time MLA and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar has reluctantly accepted the post of the Deputy Chief Minister, at the instance of former AICC president Sonia Gandhi. He will also continue as the president of the KPCC until the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Mr. Shivakumar – who celebrated his 62nd birthday on Monday – led the party from the front in Karnataka since he assumed office in July 2020 and is seen as a key person in the magnificent victory of the party with 135 seats.

Aided by a team of poll experts, he launched a sustained campaign against the Basavaraj Bommai-led "40% Sarakara" of the BJP while highlighting the five pre-poll guarantees of the Congress.

It is believed that the Vokkaliga community, to which Mr. Shivakumar belongs, rallied around him, thereby resulting in the poor show of the JD(S) in the Old Mysuru region.

Image of a 'rock'

Mr. Shivakumar is often referred to as "Kanakapura Bande" (rock of Kanakapura) in sections of the media for his adamant, never-say-die attitude and for not being cowed down by central probing agencies.

As the KPCC president, he demonstrated his organisational skills by mobilising huge crowds during the Freedom March on Independence Day, Bharat Jodo Yatra, padayatra to Mekedatu and the party's rallies across Karnataka in the run-up to the campaign. He won with the highest margin of votes (over one lakh votes) in the Kanakapura constituency.

One of the richest politicians of Karnataka, in his election affidavit in 2023, he declared assets over ₹1,350 crore, even as he is under the investigation of multiple agencies for his alleged money laundering, income tax evasion and disproportionate assets cases. Hailing from a modest background, Mr. Shivakumar has built a formidable business empire ranging over time.

Party's troubleshooter

Mr. Shivakumar, known as the Congress's troubleshooter in Karnataka, has played a vital role in the party's victory across all regions. He was crucial in keeping the party's flock together after the 2018 Assembly elections, resulting in the Congress being able to stitch a post-poll alliance with the JD(S). This had denied the BJP, with 104 seats, a chance to form the government then. The Congress linked his later arrest to this episode, billing it "vendetta" politics.

Mr. Shivakumar's first foray into electoral politics was during the 1985 Assembly election against former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda in the erstwhile Sathanur constituency.

Though Mr. Shivakumar lost, he made his entry into the Assembly with a victory from the same constituency as a Congress nominee in 1989. He has not lost a single election since then.

Mr. Shivakumar rose to political prominence in the S.M. Krishna-led Congress government (1999-2004) and many see this as a period of his meteoric rise, in both politics and business. When the Congress returned to power in 2013, Mr. Shivakumar was inducted into the Cabinet by Mr. Siddaramaiah, albeit a little later because of the former's "tainted image".

Proximity to top leaders

His proximity to the Congress central leadership and ability for political micro-management have made him the go-to man for sticky situations, like safeguarding MLAs from Gujarat at a resort in 2017 and ensuring the victory of Ahmed Patel in Rajya Sabha polls. The resort they were staying at was raided by I-T sleuths.

In the game of oneupmanship with Mr. Siddaramaiah over the post of the Chief Minister, Mr. Shivakumar settled for the Deputy Chief Minister's post.

It remains to be seen how the two leaders deliver, ensuring stability and good co-ordination.

Highlights of D.K. Shivakumar's political career

- Born on May 15, 1962, at Dodda Alahalli village in Kanakapura
- Started his political career in the National Students Union of India, student wing of Congress, and later was elected as general secretary of the State unit
- Made his electoral debut in 1985 by contesting in Sathanur constituency against H.D. Deve Gowda and lost
- Won Assembly polls from the same constituency in 1989, and has remained undefeated eight times since then
- He was made Minister of Prisons by S. Bangarappa in 1991
- Emerged as a key associate of Chief Minister S. M. Krishna during 1999-2004 and handled Cooperation and Urban Development portfolios
- He was not in Cabinet in the Congress-JD(S) coalition government in 2004-06. Was made party State unit's working president in 2006
- He was again kept out of the Cabinet by Siddaramaiah in 2013 over his 'tainted image', but joined the Cabinet as Energy Minister a year later
- He has been a troubleshooter for the party on multiple occasions
- Income Tax officials raided him and the resort where he was herding Gujarat Congress MLAs in 2017, which later led to an ED case, in which he spent 50 days in Tihar Jail. This also led to a disproportionate assets case against him by the CBI
- Was appointed KPCC president in 2020.

As HDD turns 90, leaders across parties greet him

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leaders from across the political spectrum, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu and Chief Minister-designate Siddaramaiah, on Thursday wished former Prime Minister and JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda on his 90th birthday.

"Greetings to our former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda Ji on his birthday. His contribution towards our nation is noteworthy. Praying for his long and healthy life," Mr. Modi tweeted on Thursday. Ms. Murmu spoke to Mr. Gowda on phone to wish him.

BJP leaders Basavaraj Bommai, R. Ashok, and Govind M. Karjol with H.D. Deve Gowda on his birthday at his residence in Bengaluru on Thursday.

"Best birthday wishes to former PM and senior leader of Janata Dal (Secular) Mr. Gowda. I wish him good health and happiness. May he continue to guide us to protect the interests of Kannadigas and our land, water and language," tweeted Mr. Siddaramaiah, who honed his political skills under the nonagenarian leader in the Janata Parivar before parting ways in 2006 to join Congress.

Among those who joined to wish the former Prime Minister were the AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and Nitin Gadkari, former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, former Ministers K.J. George, M.B. Patil, Eshwar Khandre and K. Sudhakar.

A delegation of BJP leaders led by Mr. Bommai also visited him at his residence to wish him. Among those present included former Ministers R. Ashok and Govind Karjol.

"My heartfelt thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi avare for wishing me on my birthday and your prayers for my good health. God has been kind to me. I hope he gives me the energy to serve the nation till my last breath," Mr. Gowda responded to Mr. Modi.

Mr. Gowda also wished Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, who incidentally shares his birthday on Thursday with the former Prime Minister.

We will bounce back: Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hours after the Congress named its Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, the outgoing Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said the BJP has not lost self-confidence because of the poll debacle and that it will bounce back in the State.

Speaking to mediapersons in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister said the BJP had begun the process of introspecting the reasons for the debacle at different levels. The party was set to hold a meeting of newly elected MLAs and defeated candidates in two to three days to decipher the reasons for the defeat. Leader of the Opposition too would be chosen in the same meeting, Mr. Bommai said, while asserting that there was no dearth of leadership in the BJP.

Seeking to downplay the poll defeat, the outgoing Chief Minister blamed the failure to reach government's welfare measures to people in some of the areas and the fact that the Congress was ahead in poll preparations as the main reasons for the poll debacle. He asserted that the BJP would spring back in the State.

"Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivamkumar have been chosen six days after declaration of election results. I congratulate them. We have to accept people's verdict in democracy," he said.

"People have huge hope on the guarantees of the Congress. The Congress has the responsibility of implementing it by ensuring that the State's financial health is not affected. Let us see how they will manage the situation," he said.

Assuring people of the State that they would work as a responsible Opposition, he said the party would not politicise issues related to State's land and water resources.

Staking claim

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot with Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar who called on him to inform that their party had the majority to form a government in the State, in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Stalin, EPS and other leaders hail SC ruling on jallikattu

However, Bharati Ramachandran, CEO, Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations, said the judgment was a big setback to animals

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court's judgment upholding the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules, 2017, saying the traditional bull-taming sport jallikattu has been going on in the State for the last century.

In a social media post, Mr. Stalin said the judgment was to be written in letters of gold in the history of Tamil Nadu. He said the verdict was a huge victory for the government's legal struggle. Pointing out that a big jallikattu arena was being constructed in Madurai, he said a victory celebration would be held during the Pongal festival in January next.

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami welcomed the verdict and recalled the resolution adopted in the Assembly in favour of jallikattu during the erstwhile AIADMK government.

Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin

However, Bharati Ramachandran, CEO, Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), said the judgment was a big setback to animals and those fighting for animal rights.

"More than a 100 people and over 20 bulls have died since 2017, when Tamil Nadu restarted jallikattu. How many more deaths will it take for the law to put an end to it? The view that jallikattu is part of Tamil culture is a debatable one," a press release quoted her as saying.

The BJP's Tamil Nadu president, K. Annamalai, on Thursday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "his persistent efforts" to lift the ban on jallikattu permanently. "If there was anyone who stood for Jallikattu from the beginning to now," it was Mr. Modi, he wrote on Twitter, welcoming the Supreme Court's verdict.

In a statement, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president K.S. Alagiri said the court had accepted the law passed by the State Cabinet.

'Politically significant'

PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss said the verdict was politically significant. Its upshot, he said, is that the State Assemblies could pass legislation on subjects placed on the Concurrent List. The Assembly, he said, also has the right to pass legislation against NEET. The Centre should help to get the President's assent for the Bill passed by the Assembly to exempt Tamil Nadu from NEET.

Tamil Maanila Congress president G.K. Vasan said the verdict recognised the traditional sport of the State. Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani termed the verdict a victory for the Dravidian history.

LDF, UDF spar over Kerala government's track record

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

On the eve of the second anniversary of the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front government on May 20, the ruling front and the Opposition present duelling narratives about the incumbent administration's track record.

The LDF has envisaged the celebrations emphasising its achievements as a curtain-raiser to its 2024 Lok Sabha campaign. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will lead a massive rally in Thiruvananthapuram. Ministers and top LDF leaders will share the big stage.

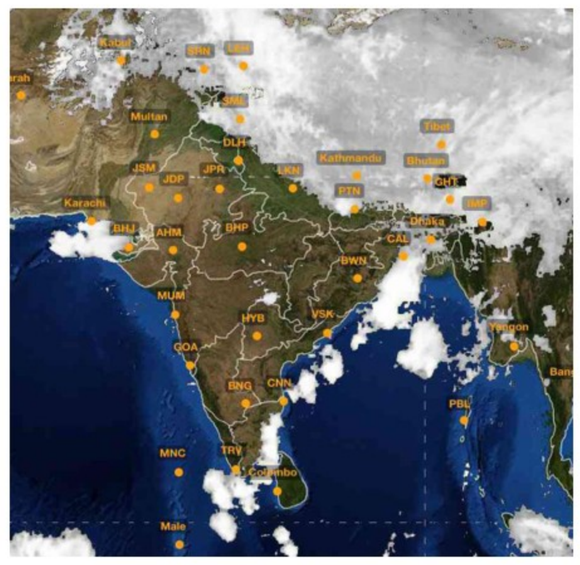
The same morning, thousands of Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) workers will lay siege to the Secretariat to observe a black day. They will unveil a charge sheet against the government, spotlighting accusations of corruption and nepotism.

The UDF seems emboldened that the Congress defeated the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Karnataka Assembly elections by fighting on an anti-corruption platform. The LDF seeks to project the image of a responsive and virtuous government that has delivered sustainable development and welfare despite the odds.

The government has credited itself for keeping brewing agitations at bay via empathetic action. It claims to have the citizenry on its side.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	26	30.6	21.3	Kozhikode	—	37.0	28.6
Ahmedabad	—	41.5	27.2	Kurnool	—	43.0	28.2
Aizawl	12	28.5	16.4	Lucknow	—	39.3	26.0
Allahabad	—	43.0	27.6	Madurai	—	39.0	27.5
Bengaluru	—	35.5	25.1	Mangaluru	—	35.6	27.1
Bhopal	—	—	24.8	Mumbai	—	34.1	26.6
Bhubaneswar	—	38.2	26.4	Mysuru	—	34.2	22.0
Chandigarh	7	34.4	20.0	New Delhi	10	36.5	21.9
Chennai	—	38.4	27.6	Patna	—	37.0	25.8
Coimbatore	9	36.5	25.2	Port Blair	—	33.0	26.2
Dehradun	11	33.4	19.0	Puducherry	—	36.2	28.3
Gangtok	12	21.2	13.8	Pune	—	39.7	23.4
Goa	—	36.0	26.0	Raipur	—	41.6	27.8
Guwahati	5	28.5	21.5	Ranchi	—	39.8	25.0
Hubballi	—	39.0	23.0	Shillong	3	20.6	15.5
Hyderabad	—	40.5	26.5	Shimla	2	22.4	10.3
Imphal	0.2	28.5	19.3	Srinagar	1	20.4	13.7
Jaipur	2	39.2	23.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.0	26.4
Kochi	—	33.0	27.4	Tiruchi	—	39.1	28.0
Kohima	1	19.8	14.2	Vijayawada	—	38.4	29.4
Kolkata	—	33.6	24.6	Visakhapatnam	—	35.0	29.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	—	15	203	220	
Bengaluru	26	11	101	80	94	
Chennai	3	23	121	83	72	
Delhi	7	30	49	215	223	
Hyderabad	41	66	135	80	132	
Kolkata	8	14	21	30	55	
Lucknow	9	21	29	289	257	
Mumbai	32	13	16	34	173	
Pune	111	159	116	135	96	
Visakhapatnam	15	44	7	60	103	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bikaner, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 339 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Gangs peddling sedative injections busted

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

The city police busted four gangs who were allegedly involved in supplying and selling sedative injections to people across the city. The police arrested eight persons and seized 7,250 ampoules of Pentazocine Lactate (Fortwin sedative injections) from them.

The Commissioner said that using the sedative leads to addiction and may cause severe respiratory issues.

Dilapidated well of Vijayanagara era unearthed in Nallamala forest

A.D. Rangarajan
KADAPA

A dilapidated well dating back to the Sadasiva Devaraya era of the Vijayanagara empire was unearthed recently in the Nallamala forest of Kadapa district.

The well, once known as 'Veerla Baaduva Bavi', is believed to have been dug in the 16th century when Sadasiva Devaraya was the emperor. It is located on the lower side of Puttakanuma abutting Yerra Cheruvu near Thippireddygaripalle village in Mydukur mandal.

The well is found on the western side of the spot where a nondescript creek joins the stream passing through the forest.

"Accompanied by the local residents, we travelled 1.5 miles from the tank to reach the well. We can find remnants of houses that once existed at this place," says historian and journalist Bommisetty Ramesh, who brought the dilapidated well to light.

A team of four villagers went to the remote location amid thorny shrubs. "We have found an inscription pertaining to land endowment in this very location that dates to Sadasiva Devaraya's period," ASI Director (Epigraphy) K. Muniratnam Reddy said.

ମତ୍ସ୍ୟ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାଳୟ, ଓଡିଶା, କଟକ
DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, ODISHA, CUTTACK
Website: https://odishafisheries.nic.in , https://dahvs.odisha.gov.in
Phone : 0671-2414061, Email:director.odifish@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

No. 8085 / Date : 17/05/2023.

In referring to the RFP No.7558, dtd.09.05.2023 for Selection of a Media Consulting Agency for IEC Strategy and Creative Productions, the corrigendum and its pre bid clarification has been webhosted and noticed in the Department website and notice for wide circulation. The bidder may visit the website **https://odishafisheries.nic.in / https://dahvs.odisha.gov.in** and download the document for reference.

DIRECTOR
M-16: OIPR-06015/11/0010/2324

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E - TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount (Exclusive of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
1. Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram. 2. RFP for selection for EPC mode contract for erection testing commissioning of Grid tied Solar Roof top Plant in Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Ltd.				
1	Road ID 60 (Vazhapilly to South Nada Road)	2023_SCTLT_575155_1	Rs. 34,93,111/-	23.05.2023
2	EPC tender for Solar Grid Tied Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Power plants, on the Roof of buildings with a total installed capacity of 95 kWp in total 3 locations including Operation & Maintenance of the plant for the first 5 years at Sanskrit College, State Armed Police Camp Nandavanam, Multi Level car parking at Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram	2023_SCTLT_574626_1	Rs. 56,27,403/-	30.05.2023

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e- mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**
(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, Tel Fax-2340096, E-mail - mdosscltd456@gmail.com

NIT No. OSSC/Mktg(Hort)-10/2023

Short e-Tender Call Notice

OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender from Producers (and in case of GOI PSUs, their authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of Planting Materials of Black Pepper Rooted Cutting for Kharif-2023 in double cover system through online mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	Purchase of Planting Materials of Black Pepper Rooted Cutting for Kharif - 2023
No of work	One
Availability of Bid Documents in Portal	15.00 hours on dt. 20.05.2023 to 17.00 hours of dt. 29.05.2023
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hrs of dt.29.05.2023
Date and time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hrs of dt. 30.05.2023

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.
CAD-630 : OIPR-01106/11/0011/2324

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, Tel Fax-2340096, E-mail - mdosscltd456@gmail.com

NIT No. OSSC/Mktg(Hort)-12/2023

e-Tender Call Notice

OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender from Producers/Suppliers on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of Pineapple Suckers for the year 2023-24 in double cover system through online mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	Purchase of Pineapple Suckers for the Year - 2023-24
No of work	One
Availability of Bid Documents in Portal	15.00 hours on dt. 20.05.2023 to 17.00 hours of dt. 09.06.2023
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hrs of dt.09.06.2023
Date and time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hrs of dt. 12.06.2023

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.
CAD-628 : OIPR-01106/11/0008/2324

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HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, Navanagar, P. B. Road, Hubballi-580025.
E-mail ID: gmt.hescom@gmail.com
Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U31401KA2002SGC030437

No.: HESCOM/DF/CA/DCA/AO(RA)/23-24/CYS-712 Date: 17-05-2023

NOTIFICATION

Revision of Electricity Tariff for Hubli Electricity Supply Company Limited for FY-2024

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred under sections 62, 64 and other provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, determines and notifies the distribution and retail supply tariff of HESCOM for FY-24 on 12.05.2023.

Tariff highlights are as under:

- **The tariff determined in the Order dated 12.05.2023 shall come into effect for the electricity consumed from the first meter reading date falling on or after 1st April 2023.**
- The Hon'ble KERC has approved an average tariff hike of 70 ps/unit for all categories of consumers. The average increase in tariff is 8.75% over the existing tariff.
- The non-telescopic tariff has been introduced for all the LT categories except LT Industrial tariff, as part of the Tariff Rationalization.
- Urban and Rural categories are merged into single category. In order to soften the burden of increase in tariff of rural consumers, the Commission decides to extend a rebate of 30 paise per unit to the consumers falling under village panchayats. In respect of LT5 category, the rebate of 30 paise per unit shall be applicable for consumers of village panchayat areas and Town Muncipal Council areas.
- HT 3(a) (i), HT 3(a) (ii) and HT 3(a) (iii) tariff categories are merged and reclassified as HT 3 tariff.
- The tariff schedule HT3 (b) is renamed as HT-6 Tariff Schedule and installations under this category are to be billed on monthly basis.
- The Commission has reclassified the consumer under LT-7(b) tariff schedule under LT-3(b) tariff schedule with increase in energy charges.
- Billing of LT-7 installations shall be on monthly basis, similar to other category of consumers, however subject to the provisions of the Conditions of Supply of Electricity of Distribution Licensees in the State of Karnataka(CoS) (Eleventh Amendment), 2023.
- The Commission to rationalize and simplify the tariff structure and to remove the complexity in billing, reduced the existing five slabs of sanctioned load considered for levy of fixed charges into two slabs under LT-5 tariff schedule.
- The Commission to promote the use of eco-friendly Electric Motor Vehicle in line with the Policy of the GOI/GOK, has reduced the energy charges to the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations including the Electric Vehicle battery swapping Stations under LT-6 tariff category from the existing energy charges of Rs.5.00/unit to Rs.4.50/unit, without increasing the fixed/demand charges.
- The concession of 50 ps/unit in the Energy Charges for the electricity consumed by the Micro and Small Scale Industries is extended for a further period of 12 months only to LT-5 category as certified by the Government.
- The Commission has continued the "Discounted Energy Rate Scheme (DERS)", by reducing the energy charges from the existing Rs. 6.00 per unit to Rs. 5.00 per unit for the HT2(a) (b) and (c) categories for usage of power beyond the base consumption until further order. The reduced rate shall be effective from the first meter reading date on or after the date of Tariff Order (12.05.2023), until further order.
  Further, regarding monthly base consumption, whenever the consumers get their contract demand reduced, there shall not be any reduction in base consumption. This will be effective from the first meter reading date on or after the date of Tariff Order (12.05.2023).
- The DERS is extended to LT Industrial and LT Commercial consumers having sanctioned load of 50 KW and above at a discounted rate of energy charges of Rs.5.00 per unit. This shall be effective from the first meter reading date on or after the date of Tariff Order (12.05.2023), until further order.
- The existing Special Incentive Scheme (SIS) is continued until further order.
- The Solar Rebate of 50 paise per unit of electricity consumed subject to a maximum of Rs. 50/- per installation per month hitherto allowed to tariff schedule LT2(a) is discontinued.
- The Commission decides to extend concession of Rs.1 per unit in the energy charges for the consumption made during the year in addition to the concession in the fixed charges / demand charges already extended to the installations of ice manufacturing units / cold storage plants used for fisheries purpose, situated in the coastal belt area of Karnataka State within a radius of 5 Kms, form Sea only. **If the installation of Ice manufacturing units / cold storage plants used for fisheries purpose, situated in the coastal belt area of Karnataka State beyond radius of 5 Kms from sea, the concession approved by the Commission shall also be extended on production of certificate issued by the Fisheries Department.**
- The existing ToD tariff is continued.
- Detailed Tariff Order is available in the website www.kerc.karnataka.gov.in and https://hescom.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Controller,
HESCOM

DIPR/DWD/10/2023-24/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

Two to tango

The Congress must show the success of its inclusive vision in Karnataka

The gloss of a massive victory in Karnataka was somewhat dulled for the Congress as its two key leaders locked horns for the post of Chief Minister, but the settlement that emerged on Thursday serves it well, tactically and strategically. Mr. Siddaramaiah will return as Chief Minister after a five-year stint as Leader of Opposition, but this time, he is expected to be more accommodative towards the party's sentiments and requirements. D.K. Shivakumar, who for good reasons believed that his claim for the top post was stronger, will become Deputy Chief Minister besides retaining his post as president of the Pradesh Congress Committee. The arrangement apparently also involves a change of guard after the 2024 Lok Sabha election when Mr. Siddaramaiah will make way for his deputy. Mr. Shivakumar holding two posts is against the declared policy of the Congress, but that is a reasonable price to pay for maintaining harmony within the party. Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were the final arbiters, but credit is also due to the party president, Mallikarjun Kharge, who showed leadership in reconciling the many conflicts that emerged within the party immediately after the victory.

In fact, the Karnataka campaign as well as the process of selecting a new leadership showed the remarkable capacity and maturity of Mr. Kharge, Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Siddaramaiah. They represent three different personas, styles, and constituencies. The incoming Chief Minister is an uncompromising champion of caste justice who could confront his own party in the process, while Mr. Shivakumar is a quintessential organisational man who can manage interest groups while being fiercely loyal to the Congress party even in the face of many odds. Mr. Kharge, through his affable style and earthy appeal, has emerged as a national leader. He gave a major fillip to the party in Karnataka, and will potentially do so in other parts of the country as well. One point that all three of them shared though the campaign was a steadfast defence of communal harmony and Hindu-Muslim relations. The Congress has rebuilt its original character of being an umbrella platform that carries with it people of all religions and castes, through the Karnataka campaign. While Congress workers will be looking up to Mr. Kharge to carry the Karnataka model to other parts of the country, the incoming Chief Minister will have the task of sustaining the momentum for the party in the State. He will have to deliver on the promises made to the people, and build a Karnataka model that works for the people, and consequently, for the Congress within the State and elsewhere in the country.

Warming warning

India must invest in infrastructure that boosts defence against disasters

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has issued its annual update on its projections for temperature trends in the next decade. The prognosis, expectedly, is worrying. The annual mean global near-surface temperature for each year between 2023 and 2027 is likely to be 1.1°-1.8°C higher than the average from 1850-1900. There is a 66% chance that the global near-surface temperature will exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, in at least one year before 2027 though it is unlikely that the five-year mean will exceed this threshold. The 1.5°C threshold, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has repeatedly said, is one that is best left unbreached to avoid the disastrous consequences of global warming. While world leaders at climate summits are in agreement, few of their actions are consistent with keeping temperature-rise within this rubicon, with current climate policies poised to heat the globe beyond 2°C by the end of the century.

At least one of the years, the WMO adds, from 2023 to 2027 will be the hottest on record – exceeding the 14.84°C reported in 2016 (it was about 0.07°C warmer than the previous record set in 2015). The five-year mean for 2023-2027 was very likely to be higher than that in the last five years (2018-2022). The oceans too are on fire. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is likely to be positive in December to February 2023-24, meaning that the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean is likely to be at least half a degree, more likely over a degree above what is normal. India is bracing for this El Niño during the monsoon, with the India Meteorological Department already indicating that monsoon rainfall will be on the lower side of 'normal'. The El Niño "will combine with human-induced climate change to push global temperatures into uncharted territory", WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a press statement in the context of the update. Hotter oceans also mean stronger cyclones. Cyclone Mocha, which barrelled through Myanmar this week and claimed at least 60 lives and wrought severe damage, ended up being stronger than what was initially estimated. The WMO update does not have specific inputs for India; however, the overall trend in indicators suggests that India, dependent as it is on rain-fed agriculture and with its long coastline, will be severely tested due to changes in the global climate. India's abilities at forecasting cyclones and weather anomalies have improved but developing resilience is far more challenging. Greater investments in bolstering disaster-related infrastructure are the need of the hour.

A long-drawn test for India's diplomatic skills

Suhasini Haidar

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarks on a week-long journey to Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia from May 19, a number of substantive global issues are on the anvil in his discussions with leaders of the G-7 outreach in Hiroshima, Japan, as well as during his travels from there, with bilateral issues taking a back seat to India's position in the multilateral sphere. These mandate a very careful balance between the two ends of an increasingly polarised world that has been blown apart after the Russian war in Ukraine. This is also a world that looks uneasily at facing the geopolitical challenge from China, worries over trade access, supply chain reliability, and food and energy security.

Although the Quad Summit (Australia, India, Japan, U.S.) due to be held in Sydney has been cancelled in the wake of U.S. President Joe Biden's domestic troubles, all four Quad leaders will meet on the sidelines of the G-7. Following this foray with the Indo-Pacific "coalition of democracies", Mr. Modi will be in Washington in June for a state visit – a rare honour accorded by the U.S. President, that has been reserved for only two Indian leaders in the past, President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1963) and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (2009). This visit will be marked by many strategic forays to bring India-U.S. ties closer.

Almost immediately after his return, Mr. Modi will need to pivot to the opposing coalition however, hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit scheduled for July 3-4, where he is expected to receive China's President Xi Jinping, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, the Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, leaders of central Asian states, the soon-to-be added SCO members, the President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, and the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, and other guests.

The world of the SCO

The composition of the SCO, which includes those being inducted as observers such as Myanmar, gives the impression of it being a largely anti-western grouping, with practically every country sanctioned by the West as a part of it. With the SCO, a grouping that represents most of the world's population, GDP growth, and energy reserves, India has comfort in its common stand against unilateral sanctions such as those against Russia.

A lesson or two may also be learnt from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council for Foreign Ministers (SCO-CFM) held in Goa earlier this month, where India's bilateral relations with mainly Pakistan, but China and even Russia, were allowed to overshadow more substantive multilateral outcomes. This is of particular annoyance to Central Asian countries, that have always insisted that no bilateral issues are brought up at the SCO, lest it go the way of the other regional South Asian grouping, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Walking the tightrope seems to have paid off for India, but the multilateral challenges it faces will multiply

A week after the SCO summit, Mr. Modi will pivot back to the European Union, as chief guest at France's national "Bastille day" parade; visits to other European capitals are likely. August will see yet another turn, with the BRICS summit in South Africa. Mr. Modi will engage with the leaders of Russia, China, Brazil and South Africa on an alternative BRICS payment mechanism to the dollar-dominated international system, along with other ideas on the agenda seeking to build a counter-narrative to the U.S.-European Union combine. In September, as Mr. Modi hosts every global leader at the G-20 summit in Delhi, his diplomatic skills will be tested again – not since 2010 have leaders of all permanent members of the UN Security Council visited Delhi in the same year, let alone at the same time.

Striking a balance

The timing of these engagements is no accident; nor is it explained by India's traditional adherence to the principle of non-alignment. If anything, Mr. Modi has consistently refused to attend Non-Aligned Movement in-person summits thus far, and has preferred his own version of "multi-directional engagements". In 2017, the same year that India took part in reviving the Quad in the face of overt belligerence from Beijing, India also joined the SCO as a full member, agreeing to host the summit this year. New Delhi also exchanged places with both Italy and Indonesia in order to host the G-20 in 2023. If it is hosting the two major summits in the same year,it is by choice, not coincidence.

It is to India's credit that it continues to maintain this balance, and is being courted by countries across the global divide, even as it seeks to hold out against two nuclear-armed land neighbours at its frontiers. Mr. Modi has even managed to maintain India's "sweet spot" without needing to follow Indonesian President Joko Widodo's example in travelling to Kiev, or inviting Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and its Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba to address the G-20, in order to strike a balance on the war.

While India's attempts at being a "balancing force" (as a senior official put it) are playing out much more visibly, it is also setting off a trend – many countries in South East Asia and the Global South, not to mention countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Israel, are managing their ties with the West without joining its stand on Ukraine or sanctions. France's latest reiteration of "Strategic Autonomy" after French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Beijing indicates that even the western coalition has its fissures on this point. Clearly, autonomous strategy or multi-alignment has paid off for India in this critical year.

Disturbing the balance

There are a few unlikely "black swan" events that could jolt India off its careful tightrope walk and force a rethink of its policies one way or the other. A sudden success for Ukraine in its much-delayed, upcoming spring offensive, for example, would require New Delhi to reconsider its unalloyed ties with Moscow. Any major aggression by China across any part of the Line of Actual Control would be another such event requiring a strategic overhaul. India may also be forced to rethink if Russia turns more belligerent over the payment problem or withhold supplies of defence hardware to India under pressure from China. Equally, any decision by the U.S. and Europe to "force a choice" on India: to go forward with unilateral sanctions for the increase in Russian oil inflows processed at the Rosneft-owned refinery in Gujarat, or through the old threat of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act-Related Sanctions (CAATSA) for India's acquisition of the Russian S-400 missile systems. In the absence of these 'at present unlikely' scenarios, India is likely to continue to try to work its interests on both sides of the geopolitical fence.

India's tasks ahead will be made more difficult if New Delhi fails to ensure at the SCO summit in July or during the BRICS summit in August, that Moscow and Beijing accede to a consensus on a joint communique at the G-20 summit in September. The U.S.-led G-7 bloc seems sanguine in allowing the differences in text to continue, suggesting that the "two outliers" can be ignored, or even omitted from the group. For India, tasked with forging a consensus, which has accompanied every G-20 summit in the past, the failure to issue a joint statement would be an ignoble distinction. Given the high stakes involved, the next 100 days will decide whether India can retain its reputation in forging a fair balance between its conflicting interests across the global divide, while remaining a gracious and successful host as the world comes home for the G-20.

suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in

Money is about more than just survival

Atanu Biswas

is Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

There is little surprise that Bernie Sanders in his book, *It's OK to Be Angry About Capitalism*, has blamed unfettered capitalism for an unprecedented level of income and wealth inequality. The Vermont Senator recently came up with a radical idea: the U.S. government should confiscate 100% of any money that Americans make above $999 million. "I think people can make it on $999 m. I think that they can survive just fine," he said.

But who says that having money is just for "survival"? Does not money buy many things? Take "happiness" for instance. Daniel Kahneman and Angus Deaton, Economics Nobel laureates in 2002 and 2015, respectively, hypothesised in 2010 that happiness increased steadily with income up to an annual income of $75,000, but that there was a monetary "happiness plateau" beyond that point.

Matt Killingsworth of the University of Pennsylvania, however, found no evidence of such a plateau. Well-being improves with money, according to his 2021 study. Recently, in an "adversarial collaboration," Kahneman, Killingsworth, and Barbara Mellers reanalysed the experience sample data and discovered that the flattening pattern only affected 20% of the population, who were the least happy. One could certainly argue that by "happiness" they mean "well-being".

Money and influence

Does money's power end there? Rich people might have a lot of influence over policy changes in many places, as one may perceive. But where is the evidence?

In a recent work that was published in April in the *British Journal of Political Science*, Mikael Persson and Anders Sundell, two Swedish researchers from the University of Gothenburg, showed that having money increases your odds of achieving your goals. They examined survey data on the preferences for around 3,000 policy proposals from 30 European countries during a 38-year period, which included information on whether or not each policy proposal was implemented. The policy proposals covered topics such as welfare, immigration, foreign policy, and the environment. In all, but two European countries, they found that the rich consistently have a higher likelihood of getting what they want from policy and politics over the course of decades. Now, it is evidence-based conclusion, at least. The average proportion of rich households supporting policies was 57.1%, compared to 53.7% for low-income households. It is interesting that there was no proof that variations in unequal congruence were connected with economic inequality, campaign finance regulations, voter turnout, or union density.

A look at whether the coin tends to fall more often on the side of the affluent

Policy outcomes and the affluent

This was already known in the American context. Political scientist Martin Gilens found in his ground-breaking study in 2012, that in the U.S., actual policy outcomes strongly reflect the preferences of the most affluent but exhibit little relationship to the preferences of Americans with poor or middle incomes. Many believe that significant economic transactions between wealthy individuals and the political elite in the U.S. may forge a link that influences politicians to act in accordance with the views of the wealthy. Nobel laureate economist Paul Krugman, for example, stated in an opinion piece in *The New York Times*, in 2020, that the wealthy have historically dominated campaign contributions in the U.S., which is related to their influence in policymaking.

Then, in a paper in 2014 published in the journal, Perspectives on Politics, Martin Gilens and Benjamin I. Page examined data sets that included measures of the key variables for 1,779 policy issues and discovered that while average citizens and mass-based interest groups have little or no independent influence, economic elites and organised groups representing business interests do. However, neither majoritarian electoral democracy nor majoritarian pluralism as a key fact was supported by the results; only theories of economic-elite domination and biased pluralism did.

Paul Krugman attempted to address the question of "Why Do the Rich Have So Much Power?" in the opinion piece. "Tax rates on corporations and high incomes have gone down, unions have been crushed, the minimum wage, adjusted for inflation, is lower than it was in the 1960s. How is that possible?" Krugman ponders.

In Europe

Well, is the campaign contribution the only factor? Certainly not. In an egalitarian welfare state such as Sweden, where campaign contributions are generally low, Mikael Persson also looked at the relationship between public opinion and policy and discovered that high-income citizens continue to receive the most policy responsiveness. Studies for Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway, influenced by Gilens' work, came to similar findings.

"[O]ne might get the impression that policy outcomes resemble a coin toss – essentially random," said Persson and Sundell in the European context. "But there remains an imbalance: for some reason, the coin tends to fall more often on the side of the affluent." Now, Bernie Sanders (or Elizabeth Warren, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, or others) ought to be aware of who actually governs and who truly rules. Contrary to popular belief, billionaires may not be policy failures; often, they are instrumental in creating policies instead. Although you might be "angry about capitalism", rest assured that money is about more than just "survival".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Buying time

The "reluctance" of the Securities and Exchange Board of India to investigate the goings-on in the Adani Group of companies is evident in the manner in which SEBI has asked for an extension in order to complete the investigation (Page 1, May 18). This only creates the perception that had the higher judiciary not stepped in, there would not have been any investigation. The 'excuse' of the 'complexity of the case' does not convince anybody. Ideally, SEBI should have started the investigation as soon as the Hindenburg report was put out. Unless the higher judiciary cracks the whip, this investigation could fizzle out.

Anthony Henriques,
Mumbai

It is least surprising that the higher judiciary has granted an extension to SEBI. However, the voluminous information put out so far by various agencies does not give a true picture about the goings-on in the Group. We deserve to know the complete truth.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

Palliative care

There is truth in the statement that Kerala has far better coverage than other States in India, as far as palliative care is concerned (Opinion page, "Kerala: an exemplary story in palliative care", May 18). However, enough doctors should be appointed to fulfil the purpose of taking care of palliative care alone, and not as an additional duty along with other medical responsibilities.

Elizabeth Varghese,
Thrikkakkara, Kochi, Kerala

Test cricket

T20 cricket has indeed had a significant influence on the playing style of batsmen in Test matches (Opinion page – 'Data point', May 18). Batsmen have lost their ability to stay at the wicket in Test cricket and this can be attributed to the changing dynamics of the game. It is important to note that present-day bowlers are not solely responsible for the outcome of Test matches as our past bowlers were equally skilled with a variety of variations and strategies. On the topic of ODIs, I believe they are now less favoured by cricket lovers, with a decline in the number of matches played each year. Despite the changes, Test cricket still holds its charm and relevance. It remains the pinnacle of the sport, challenging players' skills, temperament and endurance.

Lalgudi Muralidharan,
Lalgudi, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Can an integrated system of medicine work?

Ennapadam S. Krishna moorthy

is founder of Buddhi Clinic, Chennai

Cyriac Abby Philips

is senior consultant and clinical scientist in Hepatology, The Liver Institute, Rajagiri Hospital

PARLEY

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Union Health Ministry and the Union Ministry of Ayush have agreed to enhance cooperation in health research in the field of integrated medicine. This move will help Ayush departments at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) evolve into departments of integrated medicine. Will such an integrated system of medicine work? Ennapadam S. Krishnamoorthy and Cyriac Abby Philips discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Zubeda Hamid**. Edited excerpts:

What do you think about the Ayush Ministry's move to open inpatient and outpatient departments at Central government hospitals?

Ennapadam S. Krishnamoorthy: It looks like two kinds of collaborations have been talked about: one for practice at AIIMS and the other for research. This is a step in the right direction because it will enhance the treatments that we can offer under one roof. It will help build harmonised protocols for clinical care research, and this is especially important for non-communicable diseases, where our medical treatment options can be limited. Ayurveda and yoga are the mind-body medicine of India. We have a duty to take them to the world. That is what integrative medicine is all about.

Cyriac Abby Philips: Integrative medicine does not feature in any scientifically progressive society in the world because it is like mixing something that works with something that does not and then giving undue credit to things that do not work. Ayurveda and homeopathy are pseudo-scientific practices. There is no evidence for their use for any disease condition as preventives or treatments. When you cannot enable your people to afford good healthcare, you mix things to mislead them. It is proposed only in places where, like in India, you have a huge gap to bridge in the actual [provision of] healthcare to the masses.

Dr. Philips, you had previously said that sometimes, alternative medicine, which could be laced with modern drugs or heavy metals, has caused injuries to the body. What is the prevalence of the use of alternative medicine? Does the sale of these medicines need to be regulated?

CAP: About 50% of people use complementary/alternative medicine, and more than 70% have used it at some point during their lifetime. This is because it is promoted and advertised. There are no evidence-based

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi. REUTERS

benefits, and people can get it over the counter. Because we lack data on safety and efficacy, a lot of people develop side effects and experience adverse events, the most common being liver injury. This is mostly because of adulteration or contamination or direct toxicity of particular herbs in the product. We have no pharmacovigilance happening here.

ESK: Complementary/alternative medicine is not restricted to India. It is a global phenomenon. It is not just internal; there is a whole range of procedures. There are concerns about erroneous products that can damage the body, and a lot of these are provided over the counter. But again, the nutraceutical industry is larger than the pharmaceutical industry globally. I believe there is room for sensible use and practice. I agree it has to be regulated. I also believe that all formulations should be treated equally in terms of standards.

Do we need standardisation of formulations, randomised control trials (RCTs) and peer-reviewed studies of traditional medicine?

ESK: Quality control is vital. There has to be standardisation of formulations, whichever domain they come from. Also, RCTs are not the gold standard for everything. They are the gold standard for drug formulations, and I believe that all internal drug formulations must be subject to RCTs. But in the domain that I work with, i.e., autism and dementia and other chronic diseases, it is virtually impossible to run an RCT for many non-pharmacological therapies. I don't believe that everything in modern medicine is fantastic and everything in traditional medicine is not great.

CAP: We must look at standardising a formulation only when we identify it as being potentially useful for patients. When it comes to Ayurveda or homeopathy or any integrated practice, whether internal or external, none of them have conclusively proven to be of benefit.

> Once there is a gap between the patient and the doctor, it is filled by alternative medicine. With good communication, and evidence-based and compassionate care, alternative medicine practices can die down.
> **CYRIAC ABBY PHILIPS**

So, why standardise a formulation or a practice which has no benefits to start with? But then there is a lot of health misinformation around, because of which we are forced to educate people on how this can impact them negatively. So yes, standardisation is important, so we can reduce the health burden. And regarding RCTs, they are the gold standard for actual diagnosis or a particular intervention that can improve a condition. Alternative/complementary medicine runs away from RCTs because they know that it is not going to be good for them.

Many patients use traditional systems of medicine, many others use modern medicine alongside traditional systems of medicine. One of the approaches of Ayurveda, for instance, is to focus on a unique cure as per an individual's circumstances. Naturopathy focuses on non-invasive treatments. In a world where popping a pill is the norm for any ailment, alongside a growing mistrust of the pharma industry, is there a reason why some people gravitate towards these particular approaches?

CAP: People think that modern medicine is all about prescribing pills. Proponents of complementary/alternative medicine also indoctrinate patients about modern medicine being just [about] pill-pushers. This is wrong. A lot of guidelines promote preventive medicine as one of the biggest aspects of treatment, where there are no pills prescribed, you have properly studied and effective lifestyle changes, and a lot of other external varieties of treatment. The most important aspect is to make people understand the right healthcare choices for them, which have the least risk when done within that particular evidence-based margin. With alternative medicine, you don't have a proper safety net or a benefit net. People must understand that integrative medicine is a business. Data show that it increases the cost of care and does not improve the patient's clinical outcomes.

ESK: Modern medicine is a business too. I'm a doctor of modern medicine and I prescribe medicines to my patients all the time. But I also offer them integrated healthcare approaches to help them get better. In the domains that I am familiar with, the non-pharmacological therapy trials that get published are very much about things that happen in traditional healthcare practices. So, I don't believe that no research happens. There's even a journal of integrative medicine that is peer-reviewed. We should not assume that we know everything and our patients know nothing. A good integrative medicine practitioner helps patients make and practice safe choices. Ayurveda is an ancient system of medicine. Nothing lasts for centuries if it does not work. The Ayush market in India has grown, which means that the consumer is choosing it. We can't ignore that.

So, why do patients gravitate towards complementary/alternative medicine?

ESK: I think there are five barriers to healthcare: awareness, access, acceptability, affordability, and accountability. A person with chronic disease gravitates because they have already tried a number of things. Take mental health. If I have been on different types of medications for years and it's not having an impact on me – 10-20% of people are pharmacotherapy non-responders – isn't it natural that I will start turning towards other things that may help?

It's also acceptability: often, medical consultations are very short, you have not had a proper conversation about your health. Rightly or wrongly, that's better facilitated in other settings, which people gravitate towards.

CAP: From a science-based practitioner's perspective, there is not enough communication happening. I agree with Professor ESK: it's not just about sending [patients] to the pharmacy, there has to be a human connection and compassion. Once there is a gap between the patient and the doctor, that gap is filled by alternative medicine. With good communication, and evidence-based and compassionate care, a lot of alternative medicine practices can die down. Important, informed decisions from patients come only when doctors put patients first and discuss evidence-based options first and then go towards non-evidence-based options. I don't think integrative medicine has any major role to play now other than being a cost burden. But I hope this will change.

ESK: I believe that many systems of medicine have a role to play in keeping human beings well. Modern medicine is extremely important. But there is a wealth of wisdom and ancient traditions which can be incorporated sensibly and safely for the well-being of man.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

An endless interrogation

The intimidating experience of being questioned again and again in Israel and Palestine after covering the Prime Minister's visit

Stanly Johny

In 2018, I was in Ramallah, the de facto administrative capital of the Palestine Authority, to cover Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Palestine. A day after Mr. Modi wrapped up his visit, I prepared to leave the city. My flight was from Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport. While leaving the West Bank for Tel Aviv, my driver, a Palestinian Arab from occupied East Jerusalem, warned me about the Israeli checkpoints on the way. I had to call a taxi from Jerusalem to come and pick me up from Ramallah and drop me at Tel Aviv as taxi drivers in Ramallah are not allowed to go to Tel Aviv and Israeli taxis seldom come to Ramallah.

There were three checkpoints between Ramallah and Tel Aviv airport. The first, in Kalandia, is the main checkpoint between the northern West Bank and Jerusalem. Thousands of Palestinians who live in the northern West Bank and work on the other side of the security wall, which Israel built, cross this point every day. My driver greeted the soldier with a '*shalom*' while he handed him his permit card. I gave my passport to the soldier with the entry permit that the Israelis had issued at the airport. We were asked to wait. A while later, the soldier returned my passport and waved us on.

From there, we entered Highway 443, which Israel had built to link Jerusalem with Tel Aviv. The driver told me in broken English that the road was not open for Palestinians. "On the right is Palestine, on the left is Palestine, but this road is Israel," he said. He was able to enter the road because he lived in East Jerusalem, which was annexed by Israel after the 1967 war. On the exit points, the road was blocked by concrete walls or metal wires. This was what journalist Rachel Shabi had referred to as "the apartheid road."

At the third checkpoint, we were stopped again. The soldier, with an automated rifle in his hand, asked for the driver's permit and my passport. After a while, he came back and asked me why I had gone to Ramallah. I said I had gone to cover the Indian Prime Minister's visit. This was also written on my visa, which I showed to the soldier. Another soldier asked me to get out of the car with my belongings and go to the screening room. There, three soldiers stood holding guns. I was told to take out everything from my bag, remove my belt and jacket, and walk through the screening machine. I handed everything to them, literally at gunpoint, including a souvenir that I had bought in Bethlehem for my mother.

After the examination, the soldiers asked me to go to the adjacent room and wait while my bag remained in the screening room. My driver then came smiling. "Are you alright," he asked holding his belt in one hand. "Sorry. This is because I am an Arab from Jerusalem. And don't worry, I go through this every day," he said and sat beside me. After 15-20 minutes, I got my passport and was asked to take my bags and leave.

But at the Ben Gurion airport, a security official stopped me again. He asked me why I visited Ramallah, how many days I stayed there, why I was travelling alone, whether this the first time I was travelling to Israel (it wasn't) and whether I had left my bag unattended. He also walked away with my passport. After a while, another officer came only to ask me the same questions before vanishing. I waited not knowing what to do next. After 20 minutes, an official returned my passport. "Have a safe flight, Sir," he said.

The experience was intimidating, to say the least. I had never been interrogated like that before. I wondered, if this is what a journalist from India, which has friendly ties with Israel, who has gone to Palestine to cover a Prime Minister's visit, faces, what would others who want to travel to Palestine experience? Or perhaps I had to go through this because I was a journalist from another country who was travelling in territories illegally occupied by "the Middle East's only democracy."

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Where it does not feel like May

The shrine of Saint Sheikh Ahmed Karim, located on the Pir Panjal Pass, about 100 km south of Srinagar, on May 15. The average temperature in May in Kashmir is the lowest since the 1950s. NISSAR AHMAD

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 19, 1973

Former Burmese PM seeks political asylum in India

New Delhi, May 18: The former Burmese Prime Minister, U Nu, has been sounding India through some friendly intermediaries whether he would be permitted to spend the rest of his life as a monk at one of the historic Buddhist monasteries in the country, according to informed sources here. But he has not so far made a formal request for political asylum as such since he wants to renounce politics after giving up the abortive crusade against General Ne Win, who had usurped power from him. The first word that U Nu would like to spend his old age in meditation at a Buddhist monastery in India came from the Foreign Minister of Thailand, where he has been living in exile and trying to organise an armed revolt in Burma for overthrowing the Ne Win regime.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 19, 1923

Ceylon reforms

London, May 18: In the House of Commons Mr. Spoor raised the subject of the draft constitution of Ceylon describing it as extraordinarily reactionary in many respects. He said we had a proposal for not only the maintenance of the principle of communal and racial representation but its indefinite extension.

From Page One

Siddaramaiah picked by Cong. as Karnataka CM

Earlier in the day in Delhi, addressing a press conference along with the Congress general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, the general secretary for organisation K.C. Venugopal said that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge took the decision on the chief ministerial and deputy chief ministerial candidates after consulting senior leaders, including Ms. Gandhi.

Mr. Shivakumar, who has also been elected consecutively for eight terms since 1989, will be the sole Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka. "He will continue as the KPCC president until the Lok Sabha election (2024) is over," Mr. Venugopal said.

Soon after the official announcement, both leaders took to Twitter to say that they would work as a family to deliver the five "guarantees" in the Congress manifesto, and the promises made to the people of Karnataka. The final breakthrough was achieved well past Wednesday midnight at Mr. Kharge's residence. "Mr. Shivakumar has made a sacrifice for the sake of the party and the Gandhi family," a source close to the KPCC chief told *The Hindu*.

Asked about the delay in announcement and the series of meetings, Mr. Surjewala said that the Congress was "a democratic party that believed in consensus and not in dictatorship".

Uphill task

Mr. Siddaramaiah has an uphill task ahead. With the selection of the Chief Minister not being a smooth affair, the task of forming the Cabinet is likely to be mind-boggling, party sources said. This is because there are more than 50 aspirants in the party who are vying for the 32 ministerial berths. The Dalit leader and former KPCC president G. Parameshwara had also placed his demand for the Deputy Chief Minister's post, noting that 37 Dalit MLAs have been elected. "We are disciplined soldiers of the party. We are hopeful that the party high command will provide justice to Dalits in the Cabinet formation," he said.

T.N.'s amended law on jallikattu valid, says SC

The Constitution Bench held that the jallikattu law "substantially minimises" the pain and suffering of the animals participating in the event. The judgment, authored by Justice Aniruddha Bose, however directed that the district administrations and competent authorities in Tamil Nadu would be responsible to ensure that jallikattu events are conducted in strict compliance of the safeguards laid out in the 2017 Amendment Act and Rules.

"Jallikattu is a type of bovine sport and we are satisfied that it has been present in Tamil Nadu for at least a century," Justice Bose observed. The court described jallikattu as an event during which "a bull is set free in an arena and human participants are made to grab its hump to score in the game". Justice Bose said jallikattu was banned in 2014 by the top court in the A. Nagaraja case and called "cruel". But that was before the State passed the Amendment Act in 2017, introducing several measures to prevent any abuse to the participating bulls or loss of human life. "The Amendment Act overcomes the defects pointed out in the A. Nagaraja judgment," the court concluded.

The Bench held that the State was empowered to enact the 2017 law. The court dismissed the arguments made by petitioners, who included animal welfare activists and organisations, that jallikattu harmed bulls as they were not built to run and be grabbed at. They had argued that the sport was against the fundamental nature of bovine animals. The Constitution Bench found that the Division Bench of the court in the A. Nagaraja judgment had erred in concluding that jallikattu was not part of the cultural tradition of Tamil Nadu without sufficient material to back its finding.

For itself, the Bench refrained from delving into the issue. "Whether jallikattu has become an integral part of Tamil culture or not requires religious, cultural and social analysis in greater detail, which in our opinion is an exercise which cannot be undertaken by the judiciary," Justice Bose said.

However, the court added a rider that any culture and tradition, if it offended the law, would suffer penal consequences.

Meghwal replaces Kiren Rijiju as Law Minister

"The executive and the judiciary have a cordial relationship, and it will stay cordial and constitutional. The boundaries are already there," Mr. Meghwal told presspersons soon after taking over.

Mr. Rijiju changed his Twitter bio to his newly allocated Ministry of Earth Sciences and said, "It has been been a privilege and an honour to serve as Union Minister of Law & Justice under the guidance of Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji. I thank honourable Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, all Judges of Supreme Court, Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts, Lower Judiciary & entire Law officers for the huge support in ensuring delivering ease of justice and providing legal services for our citizens". There are many reasons being advanced for the removal of Mr. Rijiju from the crucial law portfolio, not least the slow progress on important legislative business such as the Uniform Civil Code, one of the three core ideological issues of the BJP that the government wants to go forward on, with just a year to spare before the next Lok Sabha polls.

SC refuses to lift HC stay order on Bihar caste-based survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Court says since HC has scheduled the case for July 3, it should not intervene at this point

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to immediately lift an interim stay directed by the Patna High Court on a caste-based survey in Bihar.

A Bench said that the High Court has scheduled the main case for hearing on July 3, and the apex court should not intervene at this point. The court listed the Bihar government's appeal against the interim stay on July 14. "If the High Court does not hear the matter, we will hear it on the point of interim relief," the Bench told senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Bihar.

The Bench said that the High Court had made certain *prima facie* observations about the exercise and was set to determine whether it was a 'census' or merely a 'survey'.

Mr. Divan vouched for the integrity of the survey. He said the stay order has caused irreparable loss to the public exchequer and urged the court to intervene to the extent the State could complete the exercise. "The State has already completed more than 80% of the survey work. In some districts less than 10% of work is pending," he argued.

The State had argued that the "time gap to complete the survey would adversely affect the survey since this would not be contemporaneous data...the stay of collection of data itself would cause a huge loss to the State since, if finally the action of the State is upheld, the State would be required to put logistics in place with additional expenditure and burden on public exchequer".

Know more | Is a caste census desirable?
bit.ly/podcasteth

SC sets aside West Bengal's ban on *The Kerala Story*

Producer to add disclaimer that the film is a 'fictionalised account of events' and that there is no authentic data on conversions; court says a State-wide ban on the film suffered from 'overbreadth'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday set aside the ban imposed by the West Bengal government on the screening of *The Kerala Story* and recorded the producer's submission to clarify in a disclaimer that the film is a "fictionalised account of events" with no "authentic data" to back the suggestion that 32,000 women were converted to Islam in Kerala.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud recorded the submission by the Tamil Nadu government that there is no ban, tacit or explicit, on the screening of the movie in the State. The court directed the State to provide adequate security measures in theatres and for movie-goers.

The court said the State-wide ban on the film in West Bengal suffered from "overbreadth".

> You are saying that the ban on the film is on the basis of 13 people... You get any 13 people, they will say ban any movie unless you are showing them cartoons
>
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**
> Chief Justice of India

Chief Justice Chandrachud orally observed that "32,000 is a distortion of fact", and asked senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the film producer, "What are you doing about that?" He also remarked, "We do protect free speech, but vilifying a community..."

Mr. Salve said that there was no "authentic figure" about the number of conversions made. "I will clarify in the disclaimer that there is no authentic data available," he suggested to the court.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for Tamil Nadu, reacted to the suggestion, saying, "that would be much, much worse". He further submitted, "We are all for freedom of speech, but this is hate dramatised. Millions of people watch the film... Even an art form is subject to restrictions on free speech under Article 19(2) of the Constitution."

Mr. Salve volunteered, on behalf of the producer, to add a line in the disclaimer that there was "no authentic data to back up the suggestion that the figure of conversion is 32,000 or any other established figure".

The court agreed, adding that the disclaimer should also carry the line that the "film represents a fictionalised account of the event which forms its subject matter". Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for West Bengal, said that the ban was based on feedback from the police about the comments and conduct of people who had watched the film. The film was never banned from being screened; instead, the ban was based on public feedback three days after its screening, he said.

"You are saying that the ban on the film is on the basis of 13 people... You get any 13 people, they will say ban any movie unless you are showing them cartoons," Chief Justice Chandrachud addressed the West Bengal government. The court said that the powers of the State under Section 6(1) of the West Bengal Cinema (Regulation) Act could not be used to put a premium on public intolerance. The court said that the ban must be proportional to the threat perception. "Exercise of fundamental rights cannot be dependent on public emotion. Public display of emotion has to be controlled," it said. It listed the case on July 18.

India is planning to hold Quad meet in Japan, says Foreign Secretary

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will leave on Friday for a three-nation visit covering Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia.

In Japan, Mr. Modi will participate in the G-7 summit where India is a guest country which will be followed by a visit to Papua New Guinea where he will jointly lead the summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). Briefing presspersons, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said on Thursday that India is planning to hold a Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) on the sidelines of the G-7 meeting in Japan.

"India's regular participation at the G-7 summits

Narendra Modi

clearly points to increasing recognition that India should be a part of any serious effort to resolve global challenges including those of peace, security, development and environment preservation," said Mr. Kwatra.

The meet will be held in Hiroshima where the leaders will visit the peace memorial of the city that pays tribute to the victims of the first use of atomic weapon in the history of the world. Mr. Modi will begin his engagements in Japan by unveiling a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima

On the sidelines of the G-7 summit, Mr. Modi is expected to be joined by U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Antony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for a special meeting of the Quad leaders. After Hiroshima, Mr. Modi will proceed to Papua New Guinea where he will inaugurate the 3rd summit of the FIPIC on May 22.

India has been supporting a number of programmes in the member countries of the FIPIC in the fields of sustainable development, solar energy and health. Mr. Modi will hold his bilateral meetings with the leaders of the FIPIC during his stay in Papua New Guinea. He will call on the Governor-General of the island nation after which he will hold a meeting with Prime Minister James Marape. He will also meet his counterpart from New Zealand Chris Hipkins, said Mr. Kwatra.

Later, Mr. Modi will land in Sydney where he will hold bilateral talks with the Australian Prime Minister. India and Australia are in talks to upgrade the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement to the level of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. Mr. Modi will interact with Australian CEOs and business leaders during his visit.

Japan seeks to send out strong message against Russia: envoy

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Hiroshi Suzuki

Upholding the rule of law and ensuring that Russia "pays a price" for its continuing invasion of Ukraine will be among the highest priorities for Japan as it hosts the G-7 summit of the world's most developed countries this weekend, Japan's Ambassador to India Hiroshi Suzuki said on Thursday.

"Prime Minister Fumio Kishida wants to send a strong message from Hiroshima that unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force must not be allowed anywhere in the world. That is to say, if Russia is allowed to go [ahead], without paying any price, then other countries may be tempted to do the same," Mr. Suzuki told *The Hindu* in an interview.

Asked about U.S. President Joseph Biden's last-minute decision to cancel his subsequent visits to Australia and Papua New Guinea, the Ambassador said that Australian officials were working "very hard" to convene a shortened version of the Quad meeting in Hiroshima, that was meant to be held in Sydney, but that arrangements were still being negotiated.

'Greater stress'

He denied that the cancellation of the planned Quad summit signalled a greater stress on the challenge from Russia, that the G-7 is focused on, than on issues with China and the Indo-Pacific, that the Quad would have discussed. However, the Japanese Ambassador made it clear that stopping the Russian invasion, and supporting Ukraine were at the top of the agenda. "We stand at a critical juncture to send a clear message that we should never allow the world to slide back to the dark ages of the law of the jungle," Mr. Suzuki added, in a sharp statement on the eve of the summit, which will see leaders of the U.S., Canada, the U.K., France, Germany, Italy and Japan come together in Hiroshima to discuss major geopolitical developments.

The occasion will also be used to hold a number of "outreach" sessions with invitees from India, South Korea, Australia, Brazil, Vietnam, Indonesia, Comoros and the Cook Islands. Russia was a member of the erstwhile "G-8" grouping until it was expelled after the Crimean war in 2014.

"Prime Minister Modi is a key partner because though India has not criticised Russia in public, by naming Russia, India always said it supports the fundamental principles like sovereignty, territorial integrity, rule of law, peaceful settlement of conflicts, you know, those are the fundamental rules enshrined in the UN Charter," Mr. Suzuki said.

Land-for-job scam: ED questions Rabri Devi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday questioned former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi, wife of former Union Railway Minister Lalu Prasad, in connection with the alleged land-for-job scam.

Ms. Devi reached the ED headquarters around 11.30 a.m. and recorded her statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. She was quizzed for about five hours. Last month, the agency had questioned her son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav and some others in the same case.

The ED probe is based on an FIR registered in May 2022 by the CBI against Mr. Prasad, his wife, two daughters, and 12 others.

It was alleged that during 2004-09, several ineligible persons were appointed as substitutes to the Railways' Group-D Railway posts in lieu of land parcels and they were later regularised.

Modi to inaugurate new Parliament building on May 28

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The four-storey building has been built at an estimated cost of ₹970 crore by Tata Projects Ltd

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the much-awaited new Parliament building on May 28.

The four-storey building has been built at an estimated cost of ₹970 crore. The building has been designed by the Ahmedabad-based HCP Design, Planning and Management and constructed by Tata Projects Ltd.

Seating capacity

The new building can seat 888 members in the Lok Sabha chambers against the 543 seats in the old building and can accommodate 300 members in the Rajya Sabha compared to the 250 earlier.

Since the new building does not have a central hall, joint sittings of members of both Houses would be held in the Lok Sabha which would be able to accommodate 1,280 MPs.

Notably, the new Parliament is being inaugurated two days after the Modi government completes nine years in power.

"Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and invited him to inaugurate the New Parliament Building. Construction of the new Parliament building is complete now and the new building symbolises the spirit of self," the Lok Sabha Secretariat said in an official statement.

This in effect means that the Monsoon Session of Parliament would be held in the new building.

The old Parliament building was completed in 1927, which makes it almost 100 years old.

Lack of space and the need to modernise were some of the reasons for constructing a new Parliament.

Gyanvapi case: SC to hear plea on carbon dating today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to urgently list on Friday a petition challenging an Allahabad High Court direction to determine the age of the 'shivling' allegedly found in the Gyanvapi mosque premises at Varanasi through carbon dating.

Appearing before a Bench the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Varanasi, the mosque's caretakers, pleaded urgency. They said the High Court order would become effective from Monday. The court had initially suggested listing the case on May 22 before a Vacation Bench.

The High Court had earlier set aside a October 14, 2022 order of the Varanasi District Court rejecting a plea for scientific investigation, including carbon dating, of the disputed material. It had ordered the authorities to ensure that no harm was done to the edifice claimed to be a 'shivling'.

APPEAL

Master Abhijeet Mandal, Son of Banku Mandal, 9 years admitted in Christian Medical College, is suffering from Thalassemia Major. This is a type of life threatening blood disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately **Rs. 15,00,000**/-.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Abhijeet Mandal. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

In M.P., Cong. promises free power if elected

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

The Congress on Thursday promised that it would provide 100 units of free electricity and 200 units at half tariff if voted to power in Madhya Pradesh later this year.

Addressing a public meeting in Dhar, former Chief Minister and State Congress president Kamal Nath made the announcement, and said it would improve the purchasing power of the poorest in the State.

"*Sau unit maaf aur do sau unit maaf* [use of 100 units of electricity will be free and pay half the bill for 200 units]. Do you want 200 units half, we will give it because we have the weakest sections in our mind," Mr. Nath said.

Earlier, the Congress had announced ₹1,500 monthly cash assistance to women, domestic gas cylinders at ₹500 each and reinstating the old pension scheme.

Why no 'full-time' Minister for Law, asks Opposition

Congress says there is a lack of talent in the Treasury benches, while the BSP says Rijiju has caused irreversible damage to the judiciary; Raut says his ouster is victory of the judicial system

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders on Thursday reacted to Kiren Rijiju's removal by calling him a "failed Law Minister". Taking to Twitter, Lok Sabha member and Congress leader Manickam Tagore said that Mr. Rijiju had routinely targeted the judiciary and trolled former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi.

"The failed Law Minister moves... In Earth Science [Ministry], what he can do? Hope Arjun Ram Meghwal acts in a dignified manner as law minister," said Mr. Tagore in a tweet.

Abhishek Singhvi, senior Supreme Court advocate and Congress member in the Rajya Sabha, tweeted, "The party that claims to be the largest party on the planet is even unable to find a full-time Law Minister. This doesn't only reflect the lack of talent in the Treasury benches but also the sheer inefficiency of the government."

> The entire judicial system was against the Minister and the government had to take note. This is a victory of the judicial system
>
> **SANJAY RAUT**
> Shiv Sena (UBT) MP

Former Law Minister Kapil Sibal tweeted, "Not law, now Minister for Earth Sciences. It is not easy to understand the science behind the laws. Now [he] will try to grapple with the laws of science. Good luck my friend!"

Bahujan Samaj Party MP Danish Ali tweeted, "On February 7, 2023, in Lok Sabha, I strongly objected to the unreasonable and dangerous criticism of judiciary by @KirenRijiju but Govt didn't act timely. He has been removed today. It's quite late and he has already caused irreversible damage to the institution."

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi took to Twitter to ask, "Is it because of the Maharashtra judgment embarrassment? Or the Modani-SEBI investigation?"

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said the Union government had taken note of the judiciary's "resentment" to Mr. Rijiju and, hence, he had been moved out of the Law Ministry. This is a victory of the judicial system, the Rajya Sabha member told reporters.

Mr. Raut said there was no one in the Narendra Modi government capable of handling the law portfolio independently. He alleged that Mr. Rijiju had tried to meddle in the judiciary's functioning and even insulted Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and many others.

"The entire judicial system was against the Minister and the government had to take note. This is a victory of the judicial system," the Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson claimed.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief spokesperson Clyde Crasto said that Mr. Rijiju was trying to be above the law. His exit should be an example for all Union Ministers doing the same, he said.

(With PTI inputs)

Govt. clears appointment; Mishra, Viswanathan to be sworn in as SC judges today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Friday will swear in Prashant Kumar Mishra and K.V. Viswanathan as Supreme Court judges on Friday. Mr. Viswanathan is a direct appointment from the Supreme Court Bar.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal tweeted their appointments late on Thursday. Within minutes, the Supreme Court announced the swearing on May 19, the last working day before the court goes into summer recess. The official notifications of their appointments were published in the next half hour.

The government's clearance of their names is one of the quickest in recent history. It coincides with Mr. Meghwal's first day in office as Law Minister. The Collegium had recommended the names of Justice Mishra and senior advocate Mr. Viswanathan to the government for appointment as Supreme Court judges on May 16. Hardly 48 hours have passed before the government's green signal.

Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra (left) and K.V. Viswanathan

Mr. Viswanathan would be in line to be the 58th Chief Justice of India in 2030, succeeding Justice J.B. Pardiwala as top judge. He is also only the ninth lawyer to be elevated directly to the Supreme Court Bench. Mr. Viswanathan is also the fourth direct appointee from the Bar who would become CJI. Justice Mishra was the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. With his appointment, Chhattisgarh would win a representation on the Supreme Court Bench.

The two appointments replace Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and M.R. Shah, who retired recently. Justices K.M. Joseph and Ajay Rastogi, both members of the present collegium, are set to retire along with Justice V. Ramasubramanian in June during the summer holidays.

Srinagar G-20 meet: schools closed, politicians, minorities put on alert

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Schools at "vulnerable" points have been closed and members of minorities, migrant workers and mainstream politicians are being put on alert in Kashmir, especially Srinagar, ahead of the G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting scheduled for next week.

Official sources said several schools in the city, especially those in "vulnerable pockets" in Srinagar, will be closed for the next one week.

A teacher at a private school said she received "directions from the school administration to announce a nine-day holiday from May 17".

Under surveillance: Ahead of G-20 meeting, the Navy's Marine Commandos patrolling the Dal Lake in Srinagar. NISSAR AHMAD

Official sources said security around those pockets inhabited by members of the minority communities in south Kashmir have been heightened and the members advised "to be careful, especially after sundown".

The police have been asked to increase vigil in the areas where migrant labourers reside in the city. Several road intersections, where labourers would assemble, have been closed for traffic.

Several protected mainstream leaders have been advised "to restrict their movement".

Meanwhile, teams of the elite National Security Guard (NSG) and MARCOS marine commandos have carried out drills ahead of the meeting in Srinagar.

Also read | History of G-20 and India's presidency
bit.ly/historyth

Congress questions Modi's silence on Manipur; Kharge forms observer team

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday questioned the 'silence' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Manipur violence even 15 days after it erupted, and pointed out the difficulties faced by the common people because of the ban on the Internet.

In a statement posted on his Twitter handle, Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said Home Minister Amit Shah or any other Cabinet Minister had not visited the violence-hit northeastern State.

"Fifteen days since the horrific violence erupted in Manipur and Internet was banned. Yesterday, the ban was extended for another 5 days. Banking, e-commerce, payments of e-bills, e-tickets, businesses, work from home, education, and many other essential services have come to a grinding halt. Meanwhile, not a single word issued by the Prime Minister appealing for peace," Mr. Ramesh said.

On Wednesday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had constituted a team of observers to visit the State and submit a report after a delegation led by former Manipur Chief Minister Ibobi Singh called on him.

On May 3, clashes broke out in Manipur after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was taken out in all 10 districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for ST status.

Ex-JD(U) chief mocks Nitish

Former JD(U) president Ramchandra Prasad Singh, who joined the BJP, on Thursday took a jibe at Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and called him "*Paryatak Mukhya Mantri*" (Tourist Chief Minister) over his attempt to unite the Opposition at the national level.

CBIC TUMAKURU INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP LTD, Bengaluru
No. CBICTITL/CFO/FIN/154/2023-24 Date: 18.05.2023
POSTPONEMENT OF TENDER
In furtherance to this office paper publication No. CBICTITL/CFO/FIN/149/2023-24 dated 15.05.2023, published in The Hindu and Vijaya Karnataka newspapers on 16.05.2023, the schedule of various events for e-auction of bid document for investment of surplus funds with Nationalized banks has been postponed due to e-prcurement portal under modification. The revised date will be announced later.
Sd/-
Chief Financial Officer,
CBIC-TITL, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/070/Zen/2023-24

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
The Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical) Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram-14 for and on behalf of The Union of India invites e-tenders for the under mentioned work. For other details the tenderers are advised to refer the detailed tender In the below mentioned website.
Item No.: 1, **Tender Notice No.:** TVC-M-CT-QWS-TVC-OT-2305
Name of work with its location: Setting up of Camtech model quick watering arrangements at Thiruvananthapuram depot for watering trains at PF 1 & 2, PF 3 & 4 and at PF 5 with a completion period of 06 months
Advertised Value (₹): 2,23,45,039.07
Period of Contract: 06 Months
EMD (₹): 2,61,700.00
Cost tender form (₹): 1,180.00
Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in
Tender Closing Date Time: 11:00 hrs on 05.06.2023
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal
RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR NON-TEACHING POSITIONS
I: Details of vacancies to be filled on Direct Recruitment Quota/ Deputation with a provision for subsequent absorption:

S. No.	Name of the Post(s)	Pay Level	Group	No. of Vacancies SC	ST	OBC (NCL)	UR	EWS	Total	PwD
1.	Librarian	14	A	-	-	-	1	-	1	2-PwD [Sub-categories: a & b]
2.	Superintending Engineer	13	A	-	-	-	1	-	1	
3.	Deputy Registrar	12	A	-	-	-	1	-	1	
4.	Executive Engineer (Civil/ Electrical)	11	A	-	-	-	1	-	1	
5.	Assistant Registrar	10	A	-	-	1	2	1	4	
6.	Sports Officer	10	A	-	-	-	1	-	1	
7.	Medical Officer	10	A	-	-	1	-	-	1	
8.	Physical Education Instructor	7	B	-	-	-	1	-	1	2-PwD [Sub-categories: a & b]
9.	Counselling Superintendent	7	B	-	-	-	1	-	1	
10.	Superintendent	6	B	-	-	1	1	-	2	
11.	Junior Engineer (Civil)	6	B	1	-	-	1	-	2	
12.	Junior Engineer (Electrical)	6	B	-	-	1	1	-	2	
13.	Technical Assistant (IT)	6	B	-	-	1	-	-	1	
14.	Jr. Library Superintendent	6	B	-	-	-	1	-	1	
15.	Junior Assistant (MS)	3	C	3	-	3	7	1	14	1-PwD [Sub-categories: b]
16.	Lab Assistant	3	C	1	1	1	2	1	6	
17.	Attendant (Lab)	1	C	2	-	2	3	1	8	
18.	Attendant (IT)	1	C	-	-	1	2	-	3	
	Total			7	1	12	27	4	51	

II : Details of vacancies to be filled by Promotion through Selection under Limited Departmental Quota. In case internal candidates are not available, the same may be filled under deputation/ short-term contract up to 5 years from open market applicants:

S. No.	Name of the Post(s)	Pay Level	Group	No. of Vacancies SC	ST	UR	Total	PwD
1.	Deputy Registrar	12	A	-	-	1	1	
2.	Executive Engineer (Civil/ Electrical)	11	A	-	-	1	1	
3.	Assistant Registrar	10	A	-	-	4	4	1-PwD [Sub-categories:a]
4.	Senior Superintendent	7	B	-	-	3	3	1-PwD [Sub-categories: a]
5.	Superintendent	6	B	-	-	3	3	
6.	Technical Assistant (Lab)	6	B	-	-	1	1	
7.	Technical Assistant (IT)	6	B	-	-	1	1	
8.	Office Assistant (MS)	5	C	-	-	1	1	2-PwD [Sub-categories: a & b]
9.	Jr. Technical Assistant (Lab)	5	C	-	1	2	3	
10.	Jr. Technical Assistant (IT)	5	C	-	-	6	6	
11.	Jr. Office Assistant	4	C	-	-	2	2	
	Total			-	1	25	26	

For full advertisement with details of qualifications, experience etc. please visit Institute's website (Recruitment portal) **http://iiserb.ac.in/join_iiserb**.
The application must be submitted online on or before **June 14, 2023**. Hardcopy of the same along with all required annexures must reach Recruitment Section of the Institute on or before **June 26, 2023, by 1700 Hrs**.
Date: May 15, 2023
Bhopal
उप-कुलसचिव

KMML The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam,-691583
Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 217, E-mail : contact@kmml.com,URL :www.kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details, please visit E- Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.or www.kmml.com

No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2023_KMML_576376_1	For supply of 36,960 Nos of Wooden Pallets(31,710 Nos Domestic and 5250 Nos Export)
2.	2023_KMML_576531_1	For design, fabrication & supply of Secondary Spiral Classifier
3.	2023_KMML_576132_1	For the supply of High Purity Magnesium Metal

Chavara. 18.05.2023 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

Request For Proposal (RFP)
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TECHNOPARK HARMONY@WORK
Kerala IT www.keralait.org
RFP No: 167/2023-24
Proposals are invited from Technical Consultants for providing Consultancy Service Contract for the preparation of Masterplan for Technopark Phase IV Campus (Technocity)'.
For further details, please visit **https://www.technopark.org/tenders**
Date: 18-05-2023 **Chief Executive Officer**
Trivandrum **Technopark**
RO/01155/D3/2023/1&PRD

RAJASTHAN SKILL & LIVELIHOODS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
EMI Campus, J-8B, Jhalana Industrial Area, Jaipur-302004,
Phone : 0141-2745829, E-Mail :- ps.md.rsldc@gmail.com
F. No. :- RSLDC/Adm/PMU/RFP/2023-24/1477-A Dated :- 05/05/2023
PMU FOR PROVIDING SERVICES OF TECHNICAL MANPOWER TO RSLDC
RSLDC invites two covers Bid online from the eligible Bidders for providing the services of Manpower. The last date & time for submission of bid is 25.05.2023 up to 06.00 PM. Bid document and other related information can be downloaded from the websites :-
i) www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in
ii) www.livelihoods.rajasthan.gov.in
iii) http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

Lump Sum Cost	Bid Security	Bid Document Fee	Bid Processing Fee
Rs. 3.45 Crore per year	Rs. 13,80,000	Rs. 5000/-	Rs.1180/-

Raj.Samwad/C/23/2510 General Manager (Admin)

Office of Chief Medical and Health Officer, Udaipur
(District Rural Health Society, Udaipur)
No. NHM/Accounts/F. E-Tender/2023-24/01 Dated:- 11.05.2023
Notice Inviting Bid
01/2023-24 (E-Tender)
Bids for Rate Contract for **Manpower Supply/Various UPHC, UCHC and Janta** Clinic of Procurement are invited from interested bidders up to **Published time 11.05.2023 at 10.00AM** and **Bid Submission End Time 30.05.2023 at 6.00PM.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and department website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 2.12 Crores.**
NIB No. (MHS2324A0438) Chief Medical and Health Officer
UBN No. (MHS2324SLOB00593) District Rural Health Society
DIPR/C/7065 Udaipur

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT,
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JODHPUR
Tel. 0291-2651700 E-mail : rj_cejod@nic.in
No. CE(P)/PHED/Ju/23-24/ Date:
Short Term Notice Inviting Bid
(NIB No. 17-18-2023-24)
Following Short term Bids for Execution of works under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) are invited from interested bidder up to 18.00 hrs. 23/05/2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in

S. No.	NIB no.	Project Name	Estt Cost (Rs in Cr)	NIB Code	UBN
1	17/2023-24	Piped Water Supply Project Panchla Ghewra Cherai "package A" Distt Jodhpur	81.88	PHE2324A0780	PHE2324 WLOB01759
2	18/2023-24	Retrofitting works of RWSS Panchla Ghewra Cherai "package B" Distt Jodhpur	79.97	PHE2324A0781	PHE2324 WLOB01760

DIPR/C/6915 CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT PHED JODHPUR

Indian Overseas Bank Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002
Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:
GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL- SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ENDPOINT SECURITY SOLUTION
BID NO: GEM/2023/B/3442718 DATED 12.05.2023
The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites
www.iob.in & www.gem.gov.in
For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website
www.gem.gov.in

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI
(A University of Law Established by Act No. 1 of 2008 of NCT of Delhi)
Sector-14, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078
Appointments on Non-Teaching Posts
The National Law University Delhi invites online applications for appointment on the following posts:

Sr. No.	Name of the post	No. of Post	Pay Scale/ Pay Level
1	Medical Officer	1 (Female)	Pay Level-10
2	Counselor (Mental Health)	1 (Female)	Pay Level-8
3	Staff Nurse	1 (Female)	Pay Level-7
4	Manager (Student Services)	1	Pay Level-10
5	Consultant (Administration) – Contract	1	Consolidated Remuneration Rs.60,000/-

For eligibility, age limit, criteria of selection, mode of appointment and all other details visit University website: **https://www.nludelhi.ac.in**.
Interested candidates should apply only online on or before **18.06.2023**. The candidates are required to pay non-refundable application fee of Rs.1000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only) online. SC/ST category candidates are **exempted from application fee**.
National Law University Delhi reserves the right not to fill up any of the above posts.
Prof. (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur
Registrar

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 15-05-2023 to 17-05-2023
Department of Agriculture
Tender ID: 2023_AGRI_576371_1 * State Agricultural Engineer * NABARD-RIDF XXVIII-Infrastructure Development for improving * Closing Date: 09-Jun-2023 * PAC: Rs66667179
Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.
Ro.No:15-17/May/2023/PRD/(N)9

Office of the Chief Engineer Water Resources Zone Jodhpur
Notice Inviting Bid (NIB No- CE/WRD/JDPR/02/2023-24)
Notice inviting Bid for 01 work Rs 411.29 Lacs in the State of Rajasthan India invited from interested bidders Date of sale of Bid 11.05.2023 to 05.06.2023 up to 13:00 hours. Date of receiving of Bid 05.06.2023 up to 18:00 hours and Bid will be opened on 07.06.2023 at 17:00 hours. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the http://sppp.raj.nic.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in of the state; and Water Resources department Rajasthan website.
UBN: WRD2324WSRC00155
Chief Engineer
Water Resources Zone
Jodhpur
DIPR/C/6955

INBRIEF

Pfizer temporarily suspends sale of four of its antibiotics

American pharmaceutical major Pfizer has initiated urgent temporary suspension of the sale and distribution of its life-saving antibiotics – Magnex, Magnex Forte, Zosyn, and Magnamycin injections – citing an alert on "deviation in manufacturing process". In its communication to stockists, distributors and hospitals issued on May 16, the company states: "You are requested not to undertake any further sale, distribution of the products for all stock-keeping units (SKUs) in your possession, with immediate effect, till further notice from Pfizer". Magnex, Magnex Forte, Magnamycin, and Zosyn are among the medicines used to treat infections in critically ill patients in intensive care units (ICUs).

SC expresses worry over death of cheetahs in Kuno

The Supreme Court on Thursday voiced a deep concern about the deaths of three cheetahs translocated from South Africa and Namibia to Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh. "Don't bring party-politics into this issue. Consider all the available habitats, whatever is suitable for them... It appears that Kuno is not sufficient for so many cheetahs. There is too much concentration of cheetahs at one place. Why don't you look for a suitable place in Rajasthan? Merely because Rajasthan is ruled by an Opposition party does not mean, you will not consider it," a Bench led by Justice B.R. Gavai told the Centre.

Aryan Khan case: Wankhede gives CBI questioning a miss

Former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officer Sameer Wankhede did not appear for questioning before the CBI on Thursday in connection with a case of alleged demand of ₹25 crore bribe from actor Shah Rukh Khan, officials said. It is alleged that Mr. Wankhede and others demanded the bribe to not implicate the actor's son Aryan Khan in the 2021 Cordelia cruise ship drug bust case. Mr. Wankhede had offered to appear before the agency on Thursday after an FIR was registered against him and four others on the basis of an NCB inquiry referred to it by the Home Ministry, sources said.

Cyclone Mocha: India sends relief materials to Myanmar

India launched 'Operation Karuna' to assist Myanmar which has been devastated by Cyclone Mocha. Three Indian Navy ships carrying relief materials reached Yangon on Thursday and a fourth ship would be reaching on Friday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Twitter. "The ships are carrying emergency food items, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, sanitary and hygiene items, etc," Mr. Jaishankar said. India extended a hand of friendship to the people of Myanmar affected by Cyclone Mocha, he said, adding, "India continues to be the first responder in the region".

Centre pushes vaccination as lumpy skin ravages cattle

About 10,000 cases reported in country in May; 128 cattle deaths in Uttarakhand alone; officials say severity of infection has been curbed by vaccinations, cattle developing herd immunity

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

With Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Sikkim reporting fresh cases of lumpy skin disease in May, the Union Ministry of Animal Husbandry on Thursday reviewed the situation and concluded that it was under control despite 10,000 cases being reported in the past two weeks. Noting that there was no need to panic, it suggested that vaccination be increased.

After a meeting with the States, Ministry officials and scientists said that the infection was not as contagious as it was last year. "The incidence of cases is low because of the protection given by the vaccination done last year," Animal Husbandry Commissioner Abhijit Mitra told *The Hindu*. In Uttarakhand, almost all the cases are new, but in Karnataka and Maharashtra, some of the cases had been reported before May.

Stepping up: About nine crore cattle have been vaccinated against the disease so far, and the recovery rate is above 94%. PTI

In the meeting, the Ministry urged the States to ensure that the vaccination drive is stepped up. About nine crore cattle have been vaccinated so far, and the recovery rate is above 94%. Dr. Mitra said without vaccination, the infection would have been much more contagious.

Regional Animal Husbandry Director Vijay Teotia said that more than 10,000 cattle have been infected in this wave of the epidemic, which began about three weeks ago.

He said that the gravity of the infection was lower than last year's as cattle have now developed herd immunity. "We have informed all States about the measures to be taken. A Central team has visited Maharashtra and another team will visit Uttarakhand and Karnataka soon to monitor the situation," he added. The Centre has also asked States to take precautions during the monsoon. Apart from vaccination, the Centre has asked the States to do fogging and disinfection drives in risky areas.

Watch our explainer | What is Lumpy skin disease? **bit.ly/lumpyskinth**

Joint efforts needed to stop smuggling of artefacts, says Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> There should not be any such artwork in any museum of any country which has reached there in an unethical way
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that ancient cultures like India have been struggling with the collective challenges of smuggling and appropriation of artefacts, and such crimes can be put to an end only with concerted efforts.

He noted that with India's increasing prestige in the world, various countries have started returning the country's artefacts. He cited examples of the repatriation of the idol of Nataraja dating back to the Chola period and the idol of Annapurna stolen from Varanasi.

Global museum expo

Inaugurating the International Museum Expo in the national capital, Mr. Modi said that the smuggling of cultural artefacts from India has reduced considerably since 2014 and urged art connoisseurs from around the world, especially those associated with museums, to increase cooperation in this matter.

"There should not be any such artwork in any museum of any country which has reached there in an unethical way. We should make this a moral commitment for all the museums," he said.

Around 1,200 museums are participating in various segments in the expo.

Bring back Kohinoor from the U.K., parliamentary panel notes in its report

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Nothing prevents India from seeking the return of the Kohinoor, a diamond which left Indian shores in the early 1850s and is currently embedded in the crown of the British monarch, a Parliamentary Standing Committee deliberating on heritage theft has noted in its report.

The report on "Heritage theft – the illegal trade in Indian antiquities and the challenges of retrieving and safeguarding our tangible cultural heritage" was adopted last Monday by the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture headed by YSR Congress Party MP Vijay Sai Reddy.

The committee began its deliberations on the subject with Culture Ministry officials, who reportedly said that while efforts were being made to bring in stolen artefacts, the case of Kohinoor is contentious since it was surrendered by Maharaja Dalip Singh as part of the 1849 peace treaty with the British.

Ministry officials noted that India does not have legal competence to demand the return of the diamond. Under the provisions of the Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972, the Archaeological Survey of India takes up the issue of retrieval of only such antiquities that have been illegally exported out of the country.

The crown of the British monarch sporting the Kohinoor. GETTY IMAGES

Earlier affidavit

The Culture Ministry's stand is consistent with its 2016 affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, where it had said that the diamond cannot be reclaimed as it was given as a gift. However, in the face of public outrage, the Ministry backtracked and issued a vague statement: "With regard to the Kohinoor diamond too, Government of India remains hopeful for an amicable outcome whereby India gets back a valued piece of art with strong roots in India."

The Ministry of External Affairs, which was represented by the Secretary, Economic Relations, said that all efforts were being made to bring back the Kohinoor diamond, though no details were provided to the committee on what these steps were.

To cap the deliberations, the panel also met Law Secretary Niten Chandra to understand if the case could be legally pursued. Sources said Mr. Chandra had informed the panel that "a combined reading of Articles 7 and 15 of the 1970 UNESCO convention indicates that the convention does not prevent state parties from entering special agreements for the restitution of removed cultural properties".

Based on the deliberations, the panel has urged the Ministry of Culture to "follow global practice and make all efforts to ensure precious historical artefacts are returned".

'Rohingya refugees in India under arbitrary detention, denied exit permissions'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The report urges India to recognise the Rohingya as 'refugees with a right to asylum'

India is not allowing exit permissions for Rohingya refugees who have completed refugee status determinations with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and "gained approval from third countries for resettlement", says a new report titled "A shadow of refuge: Rohingya refugees in India".

The report, jointly prepared by The Azadi Project, a women's rights nonprofit, and Refugees International, an international NGO that advocates for the rights of stateless people, was released in New Delhi on Thursday.

The report notes that "instead of refusing exit visas, India can help facilitate more resettlement opportunities" by advocating for resettlement in ally countries and other European nations at forums such as the G-20 summit. On the one hand, they are disallowed from leaving when they get a chance to resettle in another country; on the other, the Rohingya in India are vilified as "illegal migrants", face growing "anti-Muslim and anti-refugee xenophobia", and live under constant fear of being deported back to Myanmar.

Among the biggest challenges faced by Rohingya refugees in India, who number at least 20,000, is arbitrary detention. Once picked up, they are held in "holding centres" where conditions are "deplorable", the study says.

Fear of deportation

Actual and threatened deportations have also fostered a sense of fear within the Rohingya community, prompting some to return to camps in Bangladesh. Though the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the International Genocide Convention obligate India not to return the Rohingya to Myanmar, "the Supreme Court accepted the government's arguments that the Rohingya were a threat to national security and refuses to stop deportation", the report noted.

The report details the harsh living conditions of the Rohingya in slum-like settlements with no safe running water or toilets, and no access to basic healthcare, education for children, or employment opportunities.

While earlier the UNHCR cards had provided access to some level of education and livelihoods, and to protection from detention and deportation, now the government has taken a stand that "UNHCR refugee status without valid travel documents is of no consequence in India".

The report also sets out several recommendations. Firstly, it urges India to formally recognise the Rohingya in India as "refugees with a right to asylum rather than as illegal migrants".

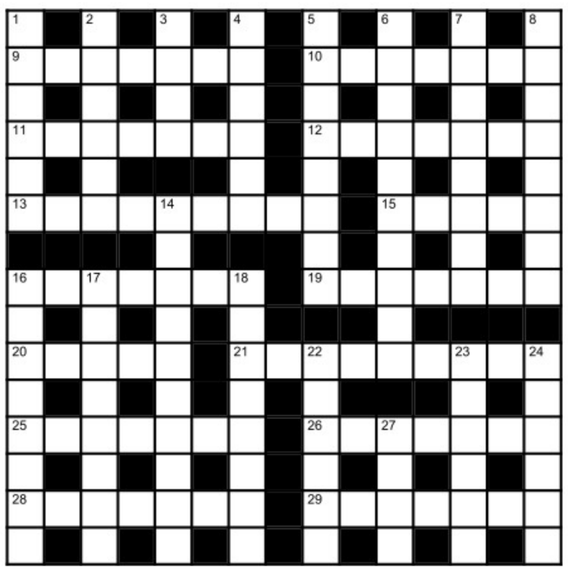
Short of this, the least that India could do is "a simple acknowledgement of residency" by recognising UNHCR cards as "sufficient for accessing basic education, work, and health services or provision of Aadhaar cards to refugees as proof of residency".

TH CROSSWORD + 13869

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 When earning profit, little tax is opposed (7)
10 Relapse of wave; oral rehydration solution for journos (7)
11 Hide in field at that place for the most part (7)
12 Natural to move in to the front if innocent (7)
13 Humiliation for people in a group following a brat regularly (9)
15 Rock band at watering-hole (5)
16 Focus on poet and author (7)
19 Meantime man came out and danced in an afternoon performance (7)
20 Ducking arrest stealing duck (5)
21 Lawyers are champions (9)
25 Say, I struggle to keep black facial hair (7)
26 Grandmother eager to get a fabric (7)
28 Teacher returned German dish (7)
29 Search for girl (English) for trial (7)

Down

1 Flower like daffodil, aster, hibiscus, lavender, iris, anemone in the front (6)
2 Father's salary gets one fruit (6)
3 Unit of length in centimetre and hectometer primarily (4)
4 Fast run between two roads (6)
5 Setter found some red mites crawling in plant tissue (8)
6 Help from the south is good? No criticism mostly demonstrative (10)
7 Goons with gin disturbed events (6-2)
8 Person who is tested taken from sea? (8)
14 Provoke once, according to a leading trauma expert (10)
16 Boarding-house to introduce early cooking without advance (8)
17 Lawyer's fine, she is almost clumsy but hearty (8)
18 Burdensome people are late to court and date (8)
22 To exit by vehicle is hard (6)
23 Assumption of the soldiers is crazy at the border (6)
24 Furniture for tanning featured in newspaper by leading editor (6)
27 Shelter doesn't have fine (4)

SUDOKU

	4		9		5			
5		3	1					
					2	7	5	
8	6	4	5				7	
7								9
	9				7	4	3	8
	8	6	7					
					9	6		2
			6		1		8	

No.SS5803 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	C	H	A	N	G	E	O	F	H	E	A	R	T	
S		Y		Y		T	L		N		E		X	
P	I	S	T	A	C	H	I	O		C	A	T	T	Y
R		T		L		I	U		H		O		L	
A	R	E	N	A		C	O	N	C	I	E	R	G	E
N		R				S		D		L		T		M
G	U	I	L	T	Y			E	L	A	N			
		A		A		B		R		D		S		
			A	B	L	Y			R	A	G	T	A	G
A		S		L		P		S				A		E
C	Y	C	L	E	P	A	T	H		W	A	C	K	Y
T		R		S		S		U		R		C		S
O	M	E	G	A		S	U	F	F	O	C	A	T	E
R		E		L		E		T		N		T		R
	U	N	I	T	E	D	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	2	5	1	6	3	7	9	8
6	9	1	8	7	4	2	5	3
8	3	7	2	9	5	4	1	6
7	1	6	4	5	8	9	3	2
9	5	3	7	1	2	6	8	4
2	8	4	6	3	9	5	7	1
1	4	9	5	8	6	3	2	7
5	6	8	3	2	7	1	4	9
3	7	2	9	4	1	8	6	5

FAITH

Surrender, best alternative

Lord Krishna acted as a charioteer for Arjuna and also to his mind. The Lord was everything to Arjuna who had an unstinted faith unto Him and whose words are the vedic utterance to him. Arjuna was grieving on three occasions. First on seeing the great grandsire Bhishma, Acharya Drona and others on the battlefield – he was confused how to face them in the war.

But Lord Krishna had to explain that the souls are different from the mortal coils that are in the form of physical body. Jnanis would not mind both because soul is imperishable and so not to be worried and mortal coil is destructible and there is no need to feel loathed of it.

Secondly Arjuna had a doubt whether he belonged to Daiva Prakruthi – destined to reach the heavenly abode or Asura Prakruthi destined to be reborn. Krishna had to clarify that 'you belonged to the first category and so you need not be worried'.

Thirdly after explaining about the Bhakthi yoga, Karma yoga and Jnana yoga in detail, Lord Krishna told Arjuna to choose that which he wanted.

Arjuna was bemused and telling to himself why should Lord Krishna, who I relied upon heavily, but for whose help and guidance have no other go, should say like this.

It is said that practice of Bhakthi yoga takes a very long time and one has to brave all odds and overcome great difficulties. But the alternative is just a surrender which is very easy.

Lord Krishna says "surrender unto me. I shall protect you. I am an ocean of tenderness for those dependent on me", said Valayapettai Sri Ramachariar in a discourse.

JEDDAH

Syria's Assad arrives in Saudi Arabia for Arab League summit

AFP

Syrian President Bashar Assad arrived on Thursday in Saudi Arabia to attend a regional summit that is expected to seal Syria's return to the Arab fold, marking his first visit since 2011. He was greeted by Prince Badr bin Sultan, Deputy Governor of Mecca. Mr. Assad's attendance is a major step in normalising relations. AP

KYIV

Kyiv weathers 'unprecedented' wave of Russian missiles overnight

AFP

Ukraine said on Thursday it had downed nearly an entire barrage of Russian missiles overnight, the latest in an "unprecedented" wave of aerial attacks on the capital Kyiv. The Defence Ministry said Russian forces had launched 30 cruise missiles from land, sea and air, targeting several regions and killing one person in Odesa. AFP

JERUSALEM

Israel deploys heavy police force ahead of testy Jerusalem march

AFP

Israel deployed over 2,000 police personnel on Thursday for a march by flag-waving Jewish nationalists through the main Palestinian thoroughfare in Jerusalem's Old City, a contentious event that comes as tensions are running high. Authorities say the security is an effort to ensure the march passes without violence. AP

LONDON

Former U.K. PM Johnson abused France's Macron, claims aide

AFP

Former U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson called French President Emmanuel Macron a four-letter obscenity that begins with C and "Putin's lickspittle" as tempers frayed over the war in Ukraine, according to a former aide of Mr. Johnson. A spokesperson for Mr. Johnson's office declined to comment on the issue. AFP

Pak. police besiege Imran's home as deadline expires

The ultimatum for Imran Khan to hand over 40 suspects ended at 2 p.m. local time; later, the former PM told his supporters that the police can only search his house with a search warrant

Associated Press
LAHORE

Pakistani police kept up their siege around the home of Imran Khan as a 24-hour deadline given to the former premier to hand over suspects allegedly sheltered inside expired on Thursday.

The siege and the authorities' demand for the suspects, wanted in violent protests over Mr. Khan's recent detention, have angered the former Prime Minister's many followers and raised fears of renewed clashes between them and security forces.

Last week, Mr. Khan's supporters attacked public property and military installations after he was dragged out of a courtroom and arrested in a graft case. At least 10 people were killed in clashes with the police across the country in the days that followed. The violence subsided only when Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered Mr. Khan's release.

Under watch: Police officers patrolling around the residence of Imran Khan, in Lahore on Thursday. AP

The popular Opposition leader was freed from custody over the weekend and returned to his home in an upscale district of Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city and the capital of the Punjab region.

Dozens of his supporters have been staying there with him, along with private guards. Police surrounded the residence on Wednesday, saying they want 40 suspects handed over.

The ultimatum for Mr. Khan ended at 2 p.m. local time, but there were no immediate signs of unusual movement by police.

Mr. Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), invited reporters to the house to witness any police raid.

Typically between 200 and 300 of Mr. Khan's supporters, holding sticks, guard his residence around the clock, but most disappeared overnight. Police have barricaded a key road leading to the house and asked residents to use an alternate route.

"Probably my last tweet before my next arrest," the 70-year-old popular Opposition leader tweeted on Wednesday, after the siege started. "Police have surrounded my house."

Later, Mr. Khan addressed his supporters saying that the police can only search his house with a search warrant and "not barge in, creating chaos."

Pakistani authorities have said they would prosecute civilians involved in recent anti-government protests in military courts.

Kilicdaroglu hardens stance against Erdogan

Associated Press
ANKARA

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's main challenger in Turkey's presidential race shifted gear and adopted a more nationalist and hardline stance on Thursday, vowing to send back millions of refugees if he is elected.

Voters in Turkey will head back to the polls on May 28 for a run-off election after neither Mr. Erdogan nor Kemal Kilicdaroglu won more than 50% of the votes in first round.

Papua New Guinea to sign security pact with U.S.: PM

Agence France-Presse
PORT MORESBY

Papua New Guinea will sign a security pact with the United States that gives American troops access to the Pacific nation's ports and airports, its leader said on Thursday.

U.S. President Joe Biden has placed more importance on the Pacific over concerns about an increasingly assertive China, which is trying to woo nations with an array of diplomatic and financial incentives in return for strategic support.

James Marape

Prime Minister James Marape said two agreements focusing on defence cooperation and maritime surveillance had been agreed with Washington and would be formally signed at the earliest opportunity after parliamentary approval.

The agreements, which can be renewed every 15 years, will give the United States vital movement in Papua New Guinea's waters near sea routes to Australia and Japan, in return for access to U.S. satellite surveillance, he said.

A leaked draft version of the defence cooperation agreement showed American forces would have broad autonomy at some of the country's key entry points, but Mr. Marape said any access would have to be approved by his government.

Two dead in sunken Chinese vessel; Indian Navy deploys P-8I for search

Dinakar Peri
Ananth Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Two crew of the capsized Chinese deep sea fishing vessel are confirmed dead, the Chinese Ministry of Transport said on Thursday as a multinational effort is racing against time to locate the missing crew. The Indian Navy said that responding to a distress call from the fishing vessel Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028, it had deployed P-8I maritime patrol aircraft on May 17 for search and rescue (SAR) efforts in the southern Indian Ocean Region, approximately 900 nautical miles from India.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), which is coordinating the rescue effort in waters located around 5,000 km from Australia and 1,300 km south of Sri Lanka, said that they had identified a large area in the Indian Ocean where they will focus the search. The Australian Defence Force too has deployed a P-8A aircraft for the search.

Multiple searches

According to the Chinese ministry, as of 2 p.m. Thursday, 10 vessels, including three Chinese Navy ships and one foreign ship, were involved in SAR efforts, and more ships are scheduled to arrive.

"P8I aircraft have carried out multiple and extensive searches despite adverse weather and located multiple objects possibly belonging to the sunken vessel. As an immediate response, SAR equipment was deployed at the scene by the Indian aircraft on request of PLA (N) (Chinese Navy) ships closing the area," the Indian Navy spokesperson said on Thursday. The missing crew includes 17 Chinese nationals, 17 Indonesians, and five persons from the Philippines.

Immediate response: The approximate location of the Chinese fishing vessel, Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028, in the Indian Ocean Region. PTI

Chinese news agency *Xinhua*, quoting a spokesperson of the AMSA, reported that based on drift modelling, a remote 12,000 sq. km zone has been identified to search for the vessel. "A number of merchant ships and other vessels have been assisting with the search and will continue to do so today. AMSA would like to thank these vessels and their crews for their invaluable assistance," the AMSA spokesperson was quoted as having said on Thursday. "Australia has been liaising with the Chinese Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, with three Chinese naval ships continuing the search in the area today."

Distress signal

According to AMSA, the massive search effort was launched after they received a distress beacon signal from the fishing vessel at about 5.30 a.m. Australian Eastern Standard Time on the morning of May 16.

The Indian Navy spokesperson further stated that in a display of India's obligations as a "credible and responsible partner" for ensuring safety at sea, Indian Navy units also coordinated SAR efforts with other units in the area, and guided PLA(N) warships transiting to the scene of the incident. "Indian Navy continues to remain deployed to provide all possible assistance to the ongoing SAR efforts," the spokesperson added.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Thursday that countries "such as Australia, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Maldives and the Philippines have extended emergency assistance and sent sympathies for the Chinese boat and crew." "The operation has been commended from various quarters in China and abroad. The Chinese government sincerely appreciates the help from those countries. As we speak, the search and rescue operation is still underway," he said.

So far, no survivors have been found with extreme weather and rough seas hampering the SAR efforts, which slightly improved on Thursday.

As reported by *The Hindu*, diplomatic sources said the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region was sharing information on the incident with affiliated partners and agencies.

'Timely help'

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday "demanded all out efforts in the rescue of the missing people", state media reported. He also called for "efforts to further strengthen the investigation and early warning of potential safety risks in deep sea operations to ensure the safety of life and property".

Later in the evening, Chinese Embassy in India acknowledged Indian Navy's assistance in ongoing search efforts on social media. "Truly appreciate the timely help!," the Embassy said on Twitter responding to the Indian Navy's post on its SAR efforts.

DIRECTORATE OF MINES & GEOLOGY
STEEL AND MINES DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
Heads of Department Building, Unit-V, Pin-751001
Tel No.: 0674-2391537, Fax No.: 0674-2391684 ; Email ID: directormines1@orissaminerals.gov.in

Notice Inviting Tender Date: May 18, 2023

"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for Decorative Stone Mineral Blocks"

In exercise of the power conferred by Section 15 of Mines and Mineral (Development & regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Odisha Minor Mineral Concession Rule, 2016 and Odisha Specified Minor Mineral Auction Rule, 2019 as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of Odisha has identified 12 (twelve) Decorative Stone Mineral Blocks as under for electronic auction and hereby invites bids for the purpose of grant of Mining Lease.

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders.

Eligibility condition, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in Tender Document. Detailed Tender Document along with the timeline, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited.

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the website of MSTC Limited.

(https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mmb/mmbod/index.jsp).

Last date for purchase of Tender Document after payment of a tender fee on website of e-auction platform provider is **Thursday, June 29, 2023,** and the last date for submission of the bid is **Friday, July 07, 2023**, on or before **17:00 hours** (Indian Standard Time). The price of tender document for each of the mineral block is Rs.50,000 plus applicable GST. GST is payable under the reverse charge mechanism and the Reserve price of all the 12 (twelve) Mineral Blocks is 5% (five percent).

List of Mineral Blocks for Auction

Sl. No.	Name of Block	Mineral	Details of Area (in Ha.)	Estimated Mineral resource (in Cubic Meter)
1.	Baharapada-Jamurhiha (East) Decorative / Dimension Stone Block	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : 21.620 Govt. Land : 31.687 Private Land : Nil **Total Concession Area : 53.307**	**12186698.24**
2.	Baharapada-Jamurhiha (West) Decorative / Dimension Stone Block	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : 38.763 Govt. Land : 24.871 Private Land : 0.183 **Total Concession Area : 63.817**	**10635255.65**
3.	Betarsing Decorative / Dimension Stone Block - A	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : 9.371 Govt. Land : 13.234 Private Land : 0.830 **Total Concession Area : 23.435**	**2256071.68**
4.	Betarsing Decorative / Dimension Stone Block - B	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : Nil Govt. Land : 14.813 Private Land : 0.563 **Total Concession Area : 15.376**	**340130.086**
5.	Damba Decorative / Dimension Stone Block	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : 4.435 Govt. Land : 2.865 Private Land : 2.681 **Total Concession Area : 9.981**	**679565.48**
6.	Derab (East) Decorative / Dimension Stone Block	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : 85.426 Govt. Land : 0.416 Private Land : 3.403 **Total Concession Area : 89.245**	**25188335.35**
7.	Derab (West) Decorative / Dimension Stone Block	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : 83.927 Govt. Land : 0.319 Private Land : 0.306 **Total Concession Area : 84.552**	**23274854.85**
8.	Jhadapada Decorative / Dimension Stone Block	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : Nil Govt. Land : 8.055 Private Land : 0.156 **Total Concession Area : 8.211**	**267399.486**
9.	Lausahi Decorative / Dimension Stone Block	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : 8.442 Govt. Land : 0.232 Private Land : 0.470 **Total Concession Area : 9.144**	**318048.484**
10.	Nuagan (Nuagad) Decorative / Dimension Stone Block	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : 6.178 Govt. Land : 10.862 Ha Private Land : Nil **Total Concession Area : 17.04**	**1035455.42**
11.	Nuagan (Tuburuba Mouza) Decorative / Dimension Stone Block	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : 1.397 Govt. Land : 9.620 Ha Private Land : Nil **Total Concession Area : 11.017 Ha**	**1379671.2**
12.	Tentulikhunti Decorative / Dimension Stone Block	Decorative/ Dimension Stone	Forest Land : 38.830 Govt. Land : 5.95 Ha Private Land : Nil **Total Concession Area : 44.780 Ha**	**6539280.91**

G-4:

Director of Mines & Geology, Odisha
OIPR-30028/11/0005/2324

INBRIEF

The Ramco Cements Q4 net rises 23% to ₹152 crore

The Ramco Cements Ltd. reported standalone net profit for the quarter ended March rose 23% from the year-earlier period to ₹152 crore. Revenue from operations grew 51% to ₹2,559 crore. Earnings before interest tax depreciation and amortisation increased by 39% to ₹424 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing. The cement major sold 4.70 MT of cement and dry mortar products against 3.23 MT. The board declared a dividend of ₹2 per share.

E-tailing in India reached $60 bn GMV in FY23: Redseer

India's e-tailing reached $60 billion gross merchandise value (GMV) in FY23 with a steady 22% annual growth showing strong performance on most metrics, said Redseer Strategy Consultants. Despite a slower annual growth of 22% in FY23, e-tailing today is 2.5x pre-COVID levels and the shopper base is maturing, the consulting firm said. According to Redseer, 31% of yearly shoppers are now monthly shoppers as well, a 23% growth from FY21.

Indian economy doing well, says S&P, retains credit rating

The Indian economy is performing well amid challenging global conditions and sound fundamentals will underpin its growth over the next two to three years, S&P Global Ratings said on Thursday, retaining the country's sovereign credit rating. The ratings agency affirmed its 'BBB-' long-term and 'A-3' short-term, unsolicited foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings, while retaining the outlook on the long-term rating at stable. REUTERS

SBI Q4 profit surges 83% to ₹16,695 cr., asset quality rises

Lender's gross NPA ratio improved by 119 basis points year-on-year to 2.78% in the quarter; bank expects credit growth to sustain momentum in the current financial year, says Chairman Khara

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

State Bank of India reported an 83% surge in standalone fourth-quarter net profit to ₹16,695 crore on an improvement in asset quality and steady credit growth.

Operating profit for the period at India's largest lender grew by 24.9% to ₹24,621 crore. Net interest income (NII) rose 29.5% to ₹40,393 crore in the three months ended March, while domestic net interest margin (NIM) increased by 44 basis points (bps) from a year earlier to 3.84%.

Small loans buoy: The state-run lender logged 16% credit growth last quarter with retail personal advances increasing 17.6%. REUTERS

SBI's net profit for FY23 crossed the ₹50,000-crore mark to ₹50,232 crore, a 58.6% jump. NII for FY23 rose 20% to ₹1,44,841 crore. Domestic NIM for FY23 increased by 22 bps to 3.58%.

"Credit growth has continued to grow at double digit" notwithstanding the fact that the RBI raised interest rates to curb inflation, observed Chairman Dinesh Khara. "We expect credit growth to continue in this financial year as well," he added.

The bank logged 16% credit growth last quarter with retail personal advances increasing 17.6%.

Gross NPA ratio improved 119 bps year-on-year in Q4 to 2.78%.

Credit cards put under LRS to check excess forex spends: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government sought to clarify its decision to bring overseas credit card spends under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) for foreign exchange outgo, stating some individuals were exceeding the $2.5 lakh annual limit fixed under the scheme.

While debit card spends were covered under the LRS, data from top money remitters show international credit cards were being issued with limits in excess of the norm, the Finance Ministry said, adding the central bank had urged the government a few times to remove this differential treatment.

Business visits excluded

The Ministry assured the scheme would not cover bona fide business visits overseas by employees and said the imposition of 20% tax collected at source or TCS for foreign remittances would primarily impact tour travel packages, gifts to non-residents and domestic high net-worth individuals investing in assets such as real estate, bonds, and stocks outside India.

"Instances have come to notice where the LRS payments are disproportionately high when compared to the disclosed incomes," the Ministry said, stressing there would be no change in the 5% TCS levied on medical or education expenses abroad, each permitted up to ₹7 lakh a year.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,432	-0.21
US Dollar	82.62	-0.30
Gold	60,070	-0.84
Brent oil	75.66	-0.94

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1890.00	-9.50
Adani Ports	664.95	-19.65
Apollo Hosp	4442.00	-40.15
Asian Paints	3109.05	16.60
Axis Bank	914.70	-0.10
Bajaj Auto	4518.65	-10.70
Bajaj Finserv	1415.45	0.05
Bajaj Finance	6789.40	84.35
Bharti Airtel	799.35	7.10
BPCL	360.70	-4.05
Britannia Ind	4564.35	-67.55
Cipla	914.50	-9.45
Coal India	239.60	-2.00
Divis Lab	3153.50	-114.50
Dr Reddys Lab	4423.10	-58.40
Eicher Motors	3576.15	-52.60
Grasim Ind	1705.70	-19.15
HCL Tech	1079.90	5.35
HDFC	2716.00	9.85
HDFC Bank	1645.00	6.55
HDFC Life	561.55	1.45
Hero MotoCorp	2735.15	12.20
Hindalco	406.50	-1.20
Hind Unilever	2627.55	-34.20
ICICI Bank	946.50	7.15
IndusInd Bank	1238.90	2.75
Infosys	1246.00	-0.90
ITC	419.70	-7.90
JSW Steel	692.05	-3.05
Kotak Bank	1927.40	18.25
L&T	2188.20	-31.40
M&M	1245.50	-17.60
Maruti Suzuki	9053.30	-66.10
NestleIndia	21679.60	-52.90
NTPC	175.10	-0.90
ONGC	166.35	-0.90
PowerGrid Corp	235.65	-3.15
Reliance Ind	2434.05	-5.25
SBI Life	1152.70	-9.90
State Bank	574.20	-12.10
Sun Pharma	929.65	-6.30
TataConsumerProduct	776.30	-1.95
Tata Motors	508.45	-7.05
Tata Steel	105.20	-0.80
TCS	3199.85	-8.85
Tech Mahindra	1048.70	-5.45
Titan	2721.85	-40.55
UltraTech Cement	7604.15	-96.30
UPL	673.35	-4.45
Wipro	382.60	0.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.40	82.72
Euro	89.11	89.46
British Pound	102.45	102.85
Japanese Yen (100)	59.83	60.06
Chinese Yuan	11.72	11.77
Swiss Franc	91.51	91.87
Singapore Dollar	61.25	61.50
Canadian Dollar	61.17	61.41
Malaysian Ringitt	18.15	18.24
Australian Dollar	54.74	55.00

Source:Indian Bank

IndiGo turns Q4 net profit of ₹919 crore

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

IndiGo, India's biggest carrier by market share, on Friday reported a net profit of ₹919 crore for the fourth quarter ended March. The airline had registered a net loss of ₹1,681.8 crore in the year-earlier period.

For fiscal 2023, the airline reported a profit of ₹2,654 crore, excluding foreign exchange impact. Including foreign exchange impact, IndiGo reported a net loss of ₹305 crore.

Financial year 2023 was a year of recovery and growth as demand continued to remain robust,

said IndiGo's CEO Pieter Elbers during a post-earnings call. Charting out his vision for the airline, Mr. Elbers said IndiGo aimed at "doubling in size and scale by the end of the decade". "In other words, what we achieved in 16 years, will be achieved in half that time," he added.

EU norm threatens coffee, leather export

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The European Union's approval this week of new deforestation regulations poses a threat to Indian exports of items like coffee, leather, paper and wooden furniture, even as the government grapples with the implications of the EU's carbon border tax.

The new EU regulations will affect imports from produce grown on land where deforestation has taken place after December 2020 and will kick in for larger companies from December 2024, with smaller businesses required to comply by June 2025.

Four levels of penalties have been planned for any violations of this norm, which include monetary fines up to 4% of a firm's annual turnover in the EU, confiscation of products, confiscation of revenues gained from a transaction and exclusion from public procurement processes.

As per a research note by Global Trade Research Initiative, the rule will affect 479 tariff lines besides the 777 lines covered by the carbon tax measure, and the two norms are expected to impact almost $10 billion of exports to Europe based on 2022 data.

Amazon's cloud arm to invest $12.7 bn in India

Mini Tejaswi
MUMBAI

Amazon Web Services (AWS) said it plans to invest $12.7 billion in India by 2030 to meet the fast-growing demand for cloud services in the country.

The cloud-computing arm of e-tailer Amazon had invested $3.7 billion in India between 2016-2022.

India was a rapidly expanding cloud market and the newly-announced investments would help create more beneficial ripple effects, supporting the country on its path to becoming a global digital powerhouse, said Puneet Chandok, president of commercial business, AWS India and South Asia.

"Our investments in data-centre infrastructure will support an estimated average of 1,31,700 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in India every year," he said at an AWS event.

GAIL Q4 profit slumps 77.5% on Russia gas supply woes

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

GAIL (India) Ltd. on Thursday reported a 77.5% slump in March-quarter net profit after high gas prices and supply disruptions from Russia impacted earnings across businesses.

The company posted a net profit of ₹603.52 crore in January-March compared with ₹2,683.11 crore in the same period a year earlier, according to a stock exchange filing.

Wheels India to spend ₹200 cr. to lift capacity

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd. (WIL) has planned capex of ₹200 crore for FY24 for a gradual ramp-up of production, said the company's MD Srivats Ram.

Last year, capex was trimmed to ₹143 crore to meet the rising interest cost burden and in the wake of a huge inventory pile-up on cancellation of orders by a U.S. customer.

"These are all one-time events. This year, we are not making any big-bang investment. The capex is for gradual capacity augmentation of commercial vehicles, tractors and aluminium wheels and windmill machining segment's next phase growth plans," Mr. Ram said.

The auto components maker, meanwhile, reported a drop in its standalone net profit for the quarter ended March to ₹25 crore, from ₹28 crore in the year-earlier period.

On his outlook for the current fiscal year, Mr. Ram said that the domestic market was expected to witness single-digit growth while export markets would definitely witness double-digit expansion.

FADA asks GST Council to cut rate on two-wheelers

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said it has submitted a representation to the GST Council urging immediate reduction in the GST rate on two-wheelers from the current 28% to 18%.

Over the past few years, prices of various two-wheelers have risen significantly, impacting their affordability for consumers across India and led to a decline in sales, FADA said.

ITC Q4 net profit rises 22% to ₹5,225 crore

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Board recommends final dividend of ₹6.75 and a special dividend of ₹2.75 per share of ₹1 each

Diversified entity ITC Ltd. on Thursday reported a 22.7% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹5,225 crore in the fourth quarter ended March, led by a strong growth momentum across operating segments.

Revenue from operations climbed 7% year-on-year to ₹18,799.18 crore while total expenses increased 2.18% to ₹12,907.84 crore.

For the fiscal ended March, consolidated net profit surged 25.5% to ₹19,427.68 crore. Consolidated revenue from operations climbed 17.3% to ₹75,826.58 crore.

The board recommended a final dividend of ₹6.75 and a special dividend of ₹2.75 per ordinary share of ₹1 each for the financial year ended March 31. Along with the interim dividend of ₹6 per ordinary share, the total dividend for FY23 would be ₹15.50.

Sport

Manchester City outclasses Real Madrid to line up another chance for a maiden title

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Reuters
MANCHESTER

This time Manchester City left nothing to chance as it demolished Real Madrid 4-0 to march into the Champions League final for the second time in three seasons with a 5-1 aggregate win at a raucous Etihad on Wednesday.

Bernardo Silva's first-half double gave City control and the host took gleeful revenge for last season's heartbreaking semifinal loss to the 14-time champion with Manuel Akanji credited with City's third and Julian Alvarez adding a fourth.

With the success, Guardiola became the fastest manager to reach 100 wins in the Champions League. The Catalan reached the milestone in just 160 matches, surpasssing Real's Carlo Ancelotti, who took 180 games to hit the three-figure mark.

Hit-man: Silva netted two of Man City's four goals. REUTERS

With Inter Milan awaiting in the final, City will now be huge favourites to finally deliver the trophy Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour has craved since buying the club in 2008, having lost to Chelsea two years ago.

City is now unbeaten in 26 home matches in the competition and that run was never in danger once Silva whipped a shot past Thibaut Courtois in the 23rd minute and then headed his side's second in the 37th. The second half was almost a formality as holders Real was outplayed by a relentless City.

And there was no way back for Ancelotti's side when Kevin De Bruyne's whipped free kick glanced off Akanji and Eder Militao and into the net in the 76th minute. Alvarez put the icing on the cake of a memorable night for City with a clinical finish after coming in late for Erling Haaland.

The results (semifinal, second leg): Manchester City 4 (Silva 23, 37, Akanji 76, Alvarez 90+1) bt Real Madrid 0. *City wins 5-1 on aggregate.*

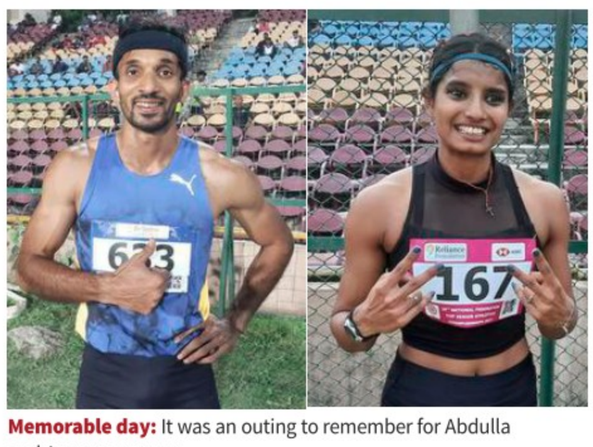
Abdulla and Jyothi win triple jump and 200m respectively, make the cut for the Asians

FEDERATION CUP

Stan Rayan
RANCHI

Abdulla Aboobacker and Jyothi Yarraji won the men's triple jump and women's 200m gold respectively in the 26th National Federation Cup athletics championships, and made the grade for the Asians to be held in Thailand, here on Thursday.

Ancy Sojan took the women's long jump gold with 6.56m, Chanda broke Tintu Luka's seven-year-old meet record in the women's 800m and javelin thrower Rohit Yadav upset D.P. Manu to take title with a personal best 83.40m.



Memorable day: It was an outing to remember for Abdulla and Ancy. STAN RAYAN

The results (finals): Men: 200m: 1. Amlan Borgohain (Asm) 20.83s, 2. Animesh Kujur (Cht) 20.94, 3. Kapil (Har) 21.44. **800m:** 1. Krishan Kumar (Har) 1:46.83s, 2. Muhammed Afsal (Ker) 1:47.66, 3. Ankesh Chaudhary (HP) 1:48.38. **5000m:** 1. Gulveer Singh (UP) 13:54.41s, 2. Abhishek Pal (UP) 13:56.32, 3. Harmanjot Singh (MP) 13:57.02. **400m hurdles:** 1. P. Yashas (Kar) 49.40s, 2. T. Santhosh (TN) 49.51, 3. M.P. Jabir (Ker) 49.99. **Triple jump:** 1. Abdulla Aboobacker (Ker) 16.76m, 2. U. Karthik (Ker) 16.44, 3. Mohammed Salahuddin (TN) 16.03. **Pole vault:** 1. Dev Meena (MP) 4.80m, 2. Rambeer Singh (Raj) 4.70, 3. Sakthi Mahendran (TN) 4.60. **Javelin:** 1. Rohit Yadav (UP) 83.40m, 2. D.P. Manu (Kar) 82.95, 3. Sachin Yadav (UP) 80.27. **Women: 200m:** 1. Jyothi Yarraji (AP) 23.42s, 2. Archana Suseendran (TN) 23.61, 3. Himani Chandel (MP) 23.61. **800m:** 1. Chanda (Del) 2:01.79s (MR, OR: Tintu Luka's 2:01.84), 2. Lavika Sharma (Del)2:03.70, 3. Twinkle (2:03.74). **5000m:** 1. Ankita (Utr) 15:49.49s, 2. Sanjivani Jadhav (Mah) 15:51.16, 3. Seema (HP) 16:11.72. **400m hurdles:** 1. Vithya Ramraj (TN) 57.51s, 2. R. Arathi (Ker) 58.29, 3. R. Anu (Ker) 59.32. **Long jump:** 1. Ancy Sojan (Ker) 6.56m, 2. Karthika Gothandapani (AP) 6.31, 3. Nayana James (Ker) 6.30. **High jump:** 1. Rubina Yadav (Har) 1.80m, 2. Angel Devasia (Ker) 1.76, 3. Khyati Mathur (UP) 1.76. **Pole vault:** 1. Rosy Meena Paulraj (TN) 4.00m, 2. Pavithra Venkatesh (TN) 4.00, 3. Barbanica Elangovan ((TN) 3.60. **Heptathlon:** 1. Sowmiya Murugan (AP) 5187 pts, 2. Purnima Hembram (Odi) 5128, 3. Tanushree (Raj) 4655.

NO STRESS

We are entering Friday's game as the season's last: Sandeep

Rajasthan Royals are still mathematically alive in the race for a play-off berth but seamer Sandeep Sharma on Thursday said they will enter their final league game against Punjab Kings' thinking it's their last outing of this IPL season. "This kind of game is the easiest to play in, you don't have to think much, just go out there and express yourself."

ALL PRAISE

Gives a lot of freedom, confidence: Parnell on captain du Plessis

RCB bowler Wayne Parnell on Thursday heaped praise on his captain Faf du Plessis. "Faf has been excellent. His style of leadership is different from most guys. He brings in a lot of calmness. He gives the guys a lot of freedom and confidence. It makes you go out there and perform," Parnell said.

PAYING RESPECT

LSG to play wearing Bagan's green and maroon colours against KKR

Lucknow Super Giants will don Mohun Bagan's iconic green and maroon colours in its crucial IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders in Kolkata on Saturday. LSG owner Shashwat Goenka said: "It is our way of paying respect to the legacy of Mohun Bagan." LSG skipper Krunal Pandya urged the Bagan fans to support his side.

TRIAL AND REAL

Gurbaz has a clear agenda against Naveen: smash him for sixes

KKR's Rahmanullah Gurbaz is eager to "settle scores" with Afghan teammate Naveen-ul-Haq during the match against LSG in Kolkata on Saturday. "In practice matches, he (Naveen) has got me out every time. But once the real time comes, I'm gonna hit him. I hit him for a few fours in a T10 game but hope to hit some sixes now," said Gurbaz.

Royal Challengers ride on Kohli's masterclass to stroll past Sunrisers

The RCB opener shares a 172-run stand with partner du Plessis to power the chase; Klaasen's brilliant century not enough for Hyderabad

Calling the shots: Kohli put his wide range of strokes on display while du Plessis complemented him to perfection. *Right:* Klaasen's hurricane ton went in vain. NAGARA GOPAL

IPL-16

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Virat Kohli cracked a superb century (100, 63b, 12x4, 4x6) and put on a 172-run stand in 17.5 overs for the first wicket with captain Faf du Plessis (71, 47b, 7x4, 2x6) to fashion Royal Challengers Bangalore's thumping eight-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL game at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium on Thursday.

The win helped the team move closer to a berth in the playoffs.

The belligerence of Kohli and du Plessis put to shade a scintillating century earlier by Heinrich Klaasen (104, 51b, 8x4, 6x6) for the home team after it was put in to bat.

Though du Plessis was lucky to be dropped on eight in the deep off pacer Kartik Tyagi and later when on 41 was caught off debutant Nitish Kumar Reddy off a no-ball, he stayed in the middle even as Kohli displayed a dazzling array of strokes – the six off Bhuvneshwar Kumar to reach the century being the pick of the shots.

The celebrations of Kohli on reaching his first century of this IPL showed how important this win was for his team and also for him even as Sunrisers suffered a sixth defeat in seven games at home. This is also the first time in IPL history that a century each was recorded by the rival teams in the same match.

Earlier, Klaasen's hundred helped Sunrisers, put in, reach 186 for five. Sunrisers' batting revolved around the brilliance of Klaasen and he demolished the rival attack with a range of strokes to the delight of the capacity crowd.

Klaasen strung together two crucial partnerships – first, 76 for third wicket off 50 balls with captain Aiden Markram and then, another 74 for the fourth wicket off 36 balls with Harry Brook.

The way he reached the three-figure mark with a straight six off Harshal Patel was a treat to watch.

This, after Michael Bracewell struck a double blow in the fifth over when he forced a poor stroke from southpaw Abhishek Sharma straight to cover fielder and then another soft dismissal of Rahul Tripathi who paddle swept straight to short fine-leg reduced Sunrisers to 28 for two.

Klaasen's onslaught clearly tested the Royal Challengers' bowling attack and with the exception of pacer Mohammed Siraj and Bracewell.

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Abhishek Sharma c Lomror b Bracewell 11 *(14b, 2x4)*, Rahul Tripathi c Harshal b Bracewell 15 *(12b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Aiden Markram b Shahbaz 18 *(20b)*, Heinrich Klaasen b Harshal 104 *(51b, 8x4, 6x6)*, Harry Brook (not out) 27 *(19b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Glenn Phillips c Parnell b Siraj 5 *(4b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, w-5): 6; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 186.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Abhishek, 4.1 overs), 2-28 (Tripathi, 4.3), 3-104 (Markram, 12.5), 4-178 (Klaasen, 18.5), 5-186 (Phillips, 19.6).

RCB BOWLING

Siraj 4-0-17-1, Parnell 4-0-35-0, Bracewell 2-0-13-2, Shahbaz 3-0-38-1, Harshal 4-0-37-1, Karn 3-0-45-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli c Phillips b Bhuvneshwar 100 *(63b, 12x4, 4x6)*, Faf du Plessis c Tripathi b Natarajan 71 *(47b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Glenn Maxwell (not out) 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Michael Bracewell (not out) 4 *(4b)*; Extras (b-2, w-4, nb-1): 7; Total (for two wkts. in 19.2 overs): 187.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-172 (Kohli, 17.5), 2-177 (du Plessis, 18.2).

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-48-1, Abhishek 3-0-28-0, Natarajan **(Impact Player in place of Samad)** 4-0-34-1, Tyagi 1.2-0-21-0, Nitish 2-0-19-0, Dagar 4-0-25-0, Phillips 1-0-10-0.

Toss: RCB.

PoM: Kohli.

RCB won by eight wickets with four balls to spare.

Next assignment

SRH: May 21 vs. **MI**
Mumbai, 3.30 p.m.

RCB: May 21 vs. **GT**
Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

Seven teams in the hunt for three spots

Front-runners: CSK and LSG, now on 15 points each, will make the knockouts if they sign off with wins. SPORTZPICS/IPL

S. Dipak Ragav

Going into the final set of league matches, only Gujarat Titans has qualified for the playoffs. The competition for the other three spots is wide open. With seven teams having a shot, it could go down to the wire.

A look at what each outfit needs to do to qualify.

PBKS and RR: The two, tied on 12 points, will fight it out on Friday. The loser will be eliminated while the winner will have 14 points but will need MI and RCB to lose. KKR, too, can get to 14 with a victory against LSG. Net Run Rate (NRR) will then decide which team takes the fourth spot. Royals, with a positive NRR, is better placed.

PBKS needs a big win considering it has the lowest NRR among the teams still in the hunt.

CSK and LSG: Both teams can seal their playoffs spots if they win their respective final matches against DC and KKR and reach 17 points. The team with a higher NRR will finish second. In case both lose and MI, RCB finish on 16, only one (LSG or CSK) can go through on NRR (CSK holds the edge now).

MI: A win against SRH at home in the final league match will take it to 16. If RCB loses its final game against GT, MI will be assured of a berth irrespective of CSK and LSG's results. If RCB wins, it will have 16 like MI and NRR will come into play (RCB has the advantage). CSK, LSG or both would have to lose and remain on 15 for MI to qualify.

RCB: A simple equation: beat Titans and hope NRR is good in case MI wins against SRH. Since it plays last, RCB will know what it has to do.

KKR: It will look to script a big win over LSG and also hope RCB and MI suffer heavy defeats. It has a very slim chance of making it.

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	13	9	4	0	18	0.835
Chennai Super Kings	13	7	5	1	15	0.381
Lucknow Super Giants	13	7	5	1	15	0.304
Royal Challengers	13	7	6	0	14	0.180
Mumbai Indians	13	7	6	0	14	-0.128
Rajasthan Royals	13	6	7	0	12	0.140
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	0	12	-0.256
Punjab Kings	13	6	7	0	12	-0.308
Delhi Capitals (E)	13	5	8	0	10	-0.572
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	13	4	9	0	8	-0.558

*After the SRH-RCB match on May 18 **Q:** Qualified; **E:** Eliminated

Dhawan's Punjab Kings and Samson's Rajasthan Royals vie to keep alive slim chance of playoffs qualification

Even-stevens: RR's horizons have conspicuously converged with PBKS — both tied on 12 points with one league match remaining. R.V. MOORTHY

Dhruva Prasad
DHARAMSALA

While qualifying for playoffs is no longer in just their hands, Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Rajasthan Royals (RR) will push for a win in a bid to marginally stay alive in the race for the IPL playoffs when they face off at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium here on Friday.

Tied on 12 points with one league match remaining, PBKS and RR's horizons have conspicuously converged. Both teams lost steam in the latter half of the tournament after starting off promisingly. PBKS conceded five 200-plus totals in its last seven games while RR has failed to defend two totals in excess of 200 of late.

Given that more than 400 runs were aggregated at the venue in Kings' 15-run defeat to Capitals two nights ago and that both teams have a penchant for big totals, the side batting first will refrain from complacency.

PBKS' thrilling five-run win while defending 197 against RR earlier in the tournament is now a distant memory.

However, fresh in RR's conscience will be its humiliating capitulation against Royal Challengers Bangalore when it was bundled out for 59 – the season's lowest score and the third lowest in the tournament's history.

Its openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jos Buttler failed to open their account in that game but will have their tails up against PBKS' bowling, which has been toothless in the PowerPlay.

Kings' shaky top-order, meanwhile, will be wary of Trent Boult, who should return to the side on a pacer-friendly wicket.

PBKS spinners Rahul Chahar and Harpreet Brar will be key in tying up RR's wobbly middle-order, which has notably struggled against the tweakers.

Plundering and leaking runs at the death have been tropes for both teams lately and this is where their fates could be decisive.

TODAY'S MATCH

PUNJAB KINGS vs. RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Dharamsala, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **25**

PBKS **11** | RR **14**

PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by five runs, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

INBRIEF

Medvedev enters the last-four stage of the Italian Open

Daniil Medvedev defeated German qualifier Yannick Hanfmann 6-2, 6-2 in the quarterfinals on Thursday to make it to the semifinals of the Italian Open in Rome at the Foro Italico. "I said before the tournament that I was feeling really great in practice," Medvedev said.

China overpowers Denmark at Sudirman Cup, tops group

Host China blanked a talented Danish side 5-0 to win Group A at the Sudirman Cup in Suzhou on Thursday. Despite the setback, Denmark also advanced to the knockout rounds that begin on Friday. Earlier in the day, Thailand edged Indonesia 3-2 to complete an undefeated run in its group stage.

Quarterfinal line-up: Thailand vs. Japan, Chinese Taipei vs Korea, China vs. Indonesia, Denmark vs. Malaysia.

Indian women go down to Australia in first hockey Test

The Indian women's hockey team started its tour of Australia on a disappointing note, losing 2-4 to the hosts in the first Test of the three-match series in Adelaide on Thursday. After a barren first quarter, world No. 3 Australia scored two goals within six minutes through debutant Aisling Utri (21st) and Maddy Fitzpatrick (27th). The Hockeyroos added two more in the third quarter from Alice Arnott (32nd) and Courtney Schonell (35th). India's goal-scorers were Sangita Kumari (29th) and Sharmila Devi (40th).

FIFA World Cup 26 Official Brand unveiled

The Official Brand of the FIFA World Cup 26, to be held in USA, Canada and Mexico, was launched in Los Angeles by president Gianni Infantino on Wednesday. For the first time in history, an image of the actual trophy and the tournament hosting year is being depicted, forming an innovative design language that anchors the FIFA World Cup emblem for 2026 and beyond.

I-League champ Punjab FC's promotion to ISL confirmed

I-League champion RoundGlass Punjab FC's promotion to the top-tier Indian Super League (ISL) was confirmed on Thursday after the club secured the requisite licensing criteria from the All India Football Federation (AIFF). AIFF's Club Licensing Committee granted Punjab FC the Premier 1 License which is required to play in the ISL.

Selection of wrestlers for 15 weight categories held

Selection trials for 15 weight categories were held on the second day of the Asian under-17 and under-23 wrestling championships at Sonepat and Patiala on Thursday. Altogether 144 wrestlers in freestyle, 68 in Greco Roman and 75 in women participated in the trials.

Selected wrestlers: U-17: Freestyle: Dhanraj (45kg), Rohit (51), Ankush (55); **Greco Roman:** Pranjal (45kg), Manu Yadav (51), Suraj (55); **women:** Rachna (40), Muskan (46), Drishti (49).
U-23: Freestyle: Sandeep Singh (86), Parveen Kumar (92); **Greco Roman:** Manoj (87), Nitesh (97); **women:** Radhika (68), Jyoti Berwal (72).

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m.
Badminton: Sudirman Cup, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 a.m. & 2.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12 a.m. (Saturday).
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday).

Nadal to miss Roland-Garros, a first since his debut in 2005

The 22-time Grand Slam champion has been out of action since January with a lingering hip injury, and he added that 2024 will likely be the final of his long and glittering career

TENNIS

Associated Press
MANACOR

Rafael Nadal announced on Thursday that he is pulling out of the French Open because of a lingering hip injury that has sidelined him since January and that he expects 2024 to be the final season of his career.

The owner of a record 14 championships at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament will miss it for the first time since making his debut there in 2005.

Nadal, who turns 37 next month, delivered the news of his withdrawal – and future plans – during a news conference at his tennis academy in Manacor, Spain. He said he does not want to set a date for his return to the tennis tour, but expects it to take months.

And then, the 22-time Grand Slam champion added: "You never know how things will turn out, but my intention is that next year will be my last year."

One day at a time: Nadal, who turns 37 next month, said he does not want to set a date for his return to the tennis tour, but expects it to take months. REUTERS

Play begins at Roland Garros on May 28. Nadal has a career record of 112-3 across 18 appearances at the French Open, a level of dominance unmatched by any man or woman at any Grand Slam in the long annals of a sport that dates to the 1800s. When Nadal won the trophy last year at age 36 while dealing with chronic foot pain, he became the oldest champion in tournament history.

Nadal's birthday is June 3, when ordinarily he might have been playing his third-round match in Court Philippe Chatrier. Instead, he will be out of action. The Spaniard hasn't competed anywhere since he lost to Mackie McDonald in the second round of the Australian Open on Jan. 18, when his movement clearly was restricted by a bothersome left hip flexor. That was Nadal's earliest Grand Slam exit since 2016.

An MRI exam the next day revealed the extent of the injury, and his manager said at the time that Nadal was expected to need up to two months to fully recover. He initially aimed to return at the Monte Carlo Masters in March, but he wasn't able to play there, then subsequently sat out tournament after tournament, decreasing the likelihood that he would be fully fit in time for the French Open.

India clubbed with Japan, Vietnam and Uzbekistan

FOOTBALL

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian women's team was on Thursday drawn with Japan, Vietnam and hosts Uzbekistan in the AFC Women's Olympic Qualifiers Round 2 to be played between October 23 and November 1.

India qualified for Round 2 with victories over Kyrgyz Republic – 5-0 and 4-0 – in a two-legged play-off earlier this year.

The Blue Tigresses are the lowest ranked team in Group C at 61, while 2012 Olympics silver medallist Japan – ranked 11 in the world – is the most formidable side. Four teams – the three group winners and the best-ranked runners-up – will progress to Round 3 to play two pairs of home and away matches, slated for February 24 and 28 next year.

Prathamesh and Avneet topple top seeds, book semifinals berths

ARCHERY WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

Young compound archers Prathamesh Jawkar and Avneet Kaur shone in tough conditions to topple top seeds and book their berths in individual men and women semifinals of the Archery World Cup Stage-2 in Shanghai on Thursday.

The 19-year-old Jawkar and 18-year-old Avneet will compete in the medal rounds on Saturday.

Jawkar shot consistently to beat Indonesia's Dhany Diva Pradana 146-144, top-seeded Korean Kim Jongho 149-147, Danish Martin Damsbo 149-146 and eighth seed Kroean Choi Yonghee 149-148 to reach the last four, where he will take on Estonia's Robin Jaatma.

Other male archers, Ojas Deotale, Rishabh Yadav and Rajat Chauhan, exited in the first round.

The 16th-seeded Avneet, who received a first round bye, won two shoot-offs on her way to the semifinals.

She defeated Mexico's Mariana Bernal 145-145 (10-9), top-seeded Korean Oh Yoohyun 142-142 (10*-10, shot closer to centre) and Mexico's Dafne Quintero 147-144 to set up a last-four clash with Great Britain's World No. 1 Ella Gibson, who edged out Aditi Swami 142-141 in the quarterfinals.

Jyothi Surekha beaten

Stage-1 gold medallist V. Jyothi Surekha was beaten by Korean Su A. Cho 144-144 (10*-10) via tie-breaker.

In recurve competitions, the Indian men's team, comprising B. Dhiraj, Atanu Das and Neeraj Chauhan, began with a bye, beat Chinese Taipei 5-3 before losing to top-ranked Korea 0-6.

The country's women's team, including Simranjeet Kaur, Bhajan Kaur and Ankita Bhakat, got a bye but lost to Indonesia 1-5.

Adrith stars for PESCA

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

R.K. Adrith top-scored with 92 as PESCA CBT beat Young Lions by 61 runs in the Tiger Cup under-16 cricket tournament.

The scores:
PESCA CBT 205/6 in 30 overs (R.K. Adrith 92, Dhruv Modhe 49) bt Young Lions 144/7 in 30 overs (Karan Raghavendra 54, Arjun Potti 31).
HuKreeda Kshetra 198 in 29.2 (Amogh R Shetty 36, Tejas Reddy 36, Ronel 32, Sharvesh 3/14) bt EISB 178 in 27.2 overs (M.B. Bilal 69, Jayanth Srinivas 27, Rishabh Adiga 4/21).

Arun, Imran and Aryan score hat-tricks

Arun Narkar, Md. Imran and Aryan Joshua scored hat-tricks as Vijayanagara FC thrashed Bharath Matha FC 16-0 in the BDFA C-division football league.

The results: Vijayanagara FC 16 (Aithiya Bhandari 4, 19, Arun Narkar 10, 16, 20, 28, 52, E.T. Rohith 12, Md. Imran 18, 30, 44, Aditya 23, Aryan Joshua 26, 32, 36, Umesh Kumar 54) bt Bharath Matha FC 0.
Young Muslims FC 3 (Anuj 42, Alok 57, 60+1) bt Queens Star FC 0; La Masia FC 3 (Prem 24, Lloyd 50, Joshua 52) drew with Basavanagudi FC 3 (Shaswath 28, Sehel Ahmed 49, Shivam Shailendra 57).

Bengaluru summer meeting begins tomorrow

RACING

Riaz Babu
BENGALURU

The 24-day Bengaluru summer meeting will commence on May 20 and conclude on August 4 with the racing being held mainly on the weekends except during the last week.

Briefing the media, Shivakumar Kheny, chairman and senior steward of Bangalore Turf Club, said the prize money estimated to be paid during the meeting would be approximately ₹18.4 crore as against ₹14.41. crore for the 2022 summer meeting.

The added money for the Bangalore Summer Derby is ₹1 crore with the club guaranteeing a total prize money of ₹2 crore and the added money for the Fillies Championship Stakes and the Colts Championship Stakes will be ₹25 lakh each with the club guaranteeing a prize money of ₹50 lakh.

For three races – D.T. Racing & Breeding LLP Juvenile Million (sponsored by D.R. Thacker), Coromandel Gromor BTC Anniversary Cup (sponsored by Coromandel Gromor) and the Hooves Of Steel Sumangala TMT Million (sponsored by Sumangala Steel Ltd) – the added money will be ₹12 lakh inclusive of the club's contribution of ₹6 lakh and an equal contribution by the sponsor.

With 742 horses, including 165 from outstation, stabled in the BTC premises, 650 are expected to participate.

Nearly 50 trainers and 100 jockeys are also expected to participate.

The Board of Appeal, reconstituted effective from the commencement of meeting, is S. Chockalingam (chairman), Y. Jagannath, Kenneth Pinto, K.R. Prakash, I.S.N. Prasad and C.H. Pratap Reddy.

Racing dates: May: 20 and 21, 27 and 28; **June:** 3 and 4, 10 and 11, 17 and 18, 24 and 25; **July:** 1 and 2, 8 and 9, 15 and 16, 22 and 23, 29 and 30; **August:** 3 and 4.

Ankita goes down to Errani

Sports Bureau

Sara Errani beat qualifier Ankita Raina 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the pre-quarterfinals of the $115,000 WTA tennis in Florence, Italy, on Thursday.

Other results: $200,000 Challenger, Turin: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Victor Cornea (Rou) & Luis Martinez (Ven) bt Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 6-4, 3-6, [10-7].
$80,000 Challenger, Tunis: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Niki Poonacha & Adam Taylor (Aus) bt Shintaro Mochizuki & Rio Noguchi (Jpn) 7-5, 4-6, [10-4].
$15,000 ITF men, Addis Ababa: Pre-quarterfinals: Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Ishaque Eqbal 1-6, 6-3, 6-4; Guy Iradukunda (Bdi) bt Rishab Agarwal 6-3, 6-0.
First round: Nicolas Valdes (Chi) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(8); Rishab Agarwal bt Dev Javia 6-3, 7-6(1); S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Ben Weintraub (Isr) 6-2, 6-0;
$10,000 ITF women, Madrid: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Oksana Kalashnikova (Geo) & Katarzyna Piter (Pol) bt Conny Perrin (Sui) & Prarthana Thombare 6-3, 6-3; Eleni Christofi & Despina Papamichail (Gre) bt Lucia Llorca (Esp) & Vasanti Shinde 6-3, 6-1.
$25,000 ITF women, Incheon: Pre-quarterfinals: Yujin Ahn (Kor) bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 7-6(5), 6-2.

'Challenging for cisgender women to compete against transgender women who have a higher level of testosterone'

ATHLETICS

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Decorated track athlete Sanya Richards-Ross understands the reasoning behind World Athletics banning transgender women from competing in elite female competitions.

Sanya is hopeful that the governing body can find a fair way for all to compete.

"The main difference between men and women is testosterone levels. That is what gives men an advantage over women in sports," Sanya, the TCS World 10K International Event Ambassador, said here on Thursday.

Top of the game: Sanya, a four-time Olympic gold medallist, ranks as one of the best 400m sprinters of all time. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"So it becomes challenging for cisgender women to compete against transgender women who have a higher level of testosterone. You want it to be a fair and level playing field for all.

"Obviously, it is no one's fault (being a transgender woman). However these men and women identify, they should have a place in sports. They should have a place in everything in life. My hope is that we can find a fair way for all to compete," Sanya added.

> However these men and women identify, they should have a place in sports. They should have a place in everything in life. My hope is that we can find a fair way for all to compete

A four-time Olympic gold medallist, Sanya ranks as one of the best 400m sprinters of all time. The Jamaica-born American ran the 400m under 50 seconds an incredible 49 times.

There is one record, however, that proved to be way beyond the reach of Sanya. The 400m women's world record was set at 47.60s by Marita Koch in 1985 – a mark that stands to this day. This timing is generally considered unattainable even by the best modern-day 400m sprinters.

Marita's record, however, is clouded with suspicion that East German athletes at the time aided from using performance-enhancing drugs.

Sanya explained that the Marita's world record just "does not make sense".

"I wish the IAAF would have put an asterix with that record. Timings progressively go down; you don't see huge dips.

"It does not make sense for the record to go from 52 seconds to 47.60 seconds in that short span of time. I was supremely talented, worked really hard, and had the calibre to create a world record, but 47.60s was never on the cards for me.

"The IAAF should have taken action, especially when there were documentaries and other things that showed that athletes from East Germany were doping.

"They should have had the courage to do it then, and it's too late to do anything about it now," Sanya said.